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CAPITAL ONE BOUND

HUSKERS MISS SHOT AT ROSE BOWL, HEADED BACK
TO ORLANDO AFTER 70-31 LOSS IN BIG TEN TITLE GAME



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Nebraska takes two steps back with blowout loss to Badgers.

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STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

Nebraska has a lot to prove in the Capital One Bowl.



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2012 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV
SEPT. 1	SOUTHERN MISS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 49-20
SEPT. 8	@ UCLA	LOS ANGELES	6:30P.M.	L, 36-30
SEPT. 15	ARKANSAS STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11:00A.M.	W, 42-13
SEPT. 22	IDAHO STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 73-7
SEPT. 29	WISCONSIN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7P.M.	W, 30-27
OCT. 6	@ OHIO STATE	COLUMBUS, OH	7P.M.	L, 63-38
OCT. 20	@ NORTHWESTERN	EVANSTON, ILL.	2:30P.M.	W, 29-28
OCT. 27	MICHIGAN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7P.M.	W, 23-9
NOV. 3	@ MICHIGAN STATE	EAST LANSING, MICH.	2:30P.M.	W, 28-24
NOV. 10	PENN STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 32-23
NOV. 17	MINNESOTA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 38-14
NOV. 23	@ IOWA	IOWA CITY, IA	11A.M.	W, 13-7
DEC. 1	WISCONSIN @ BIG TEN	INDIANAPOLIS, IND.	7:17P.M.	L, 70-31
JAN. 1	GEORGIA @ CAPITAL ONE BOWL	ORLANDO, FLA.	NOON	ABC



ON THE COVER

Junior quarterback Taylor Martinez tries to elude the rush of Wisconsin's Brendan Kelly. Martinez was under pressure all game against the Badgers, who sacked the NU signal caller six times. Martinez did move into the second spot all-time for single-season total yardage with his 300+ yard day against the Badgers.

PHOTO BY JOEL BISSELL

NU TAKES TWO STEPS BACK IN BAD LOSS TO BADGERS

Wisconsin's 35-straight points in second, third-quarter stretch spell doom for NU in title game

IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER THAT PRIOR TO THE 70-31 LOSS TO WISCONSIN IN THE BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP GAME, THE NEBRASKA FOOTBALL TEAM HAD WON SIX GAMES IN A ROW AND WAS FAVORED TO GO TO ITS FIRST ROSE BOWL AS MEMBERS OF THE BIG TEN.

The thorny reminder in Indianapolis from the Badgers just how fragile this Nebraska program still is and how easily things can snowball out of control, even against a team that few predicted would be so potent offensively, make NU's 10 total victories seem like a season ago.

Perhaps the most puzzling turn of events was the defense, which had been one of its stronger points during that conference winning streak and in the 30-27 win against the Badgers the first time.

In that game, NU had limited Wisconsin to 56 rushing yards, but this time the same speedy running backs found little resistance all game while running for 529 yards, a NU opponent's record. The previous record of 506 yards had been surrendered way back in 1956 to Oklahoma.

Offensively, Nebraska scored 31 points, but continued to turn the ball over and was not able to do a very good job of converting third downs to keep drives going.

It was eerily similar to the Ohio State debacle earlier this year and to other big games in the last five years when the Huskers have come up short.



It seems that under head coach Bo Pelini, NU gets close to the peak, but when given opportunities to reach the summit, fall crashing halfway back down the mountain where they have to pick themselves up again and work hard to regain credibility.

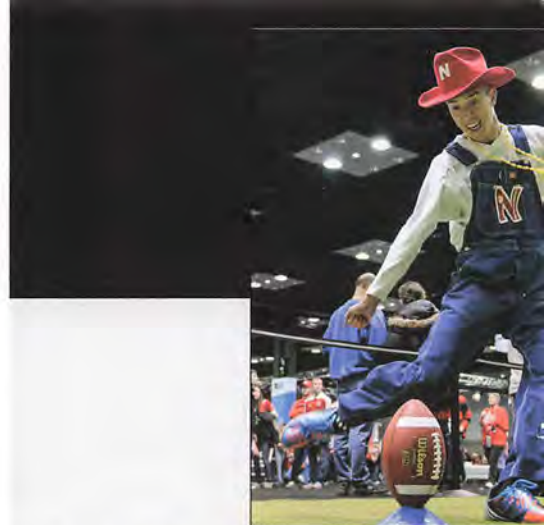
When pressed about the big-game failures after the Big Ten game, Pelini reiterated that the foundation of the program is strong and that this was another unexplained single-game blip.

Luckily for NU players and coaches, they will get another chance to make a statement and show that progress is being made when the Huskers face No. 6 Georgia in the Capitol One Bowl on Jan. 1.

"It's not the first time we've gotten hit in the mouth," Pelini said. "Everybody who plays the sport of football, or plays athletics, goes through a tough time. The way you're defined isn't by what happens to you, but the way you react to it. Our guys are looking forward to the next opportunity to go out there and play. The opportunity to play against Georgia is great."

A win against the Bulldogs surely would make it hard for those who have started anti-Pelini and Bo Must Go websites to gain much traction and give NU players and fans a positive to think about all offseason. However, another embarrassing loss would further sour the success that NU had this season and make for an excruciatingly long off-season for Pelini amongst his critics in Husker Nation.

Needless to say, a lot will be on the line in Orlando.

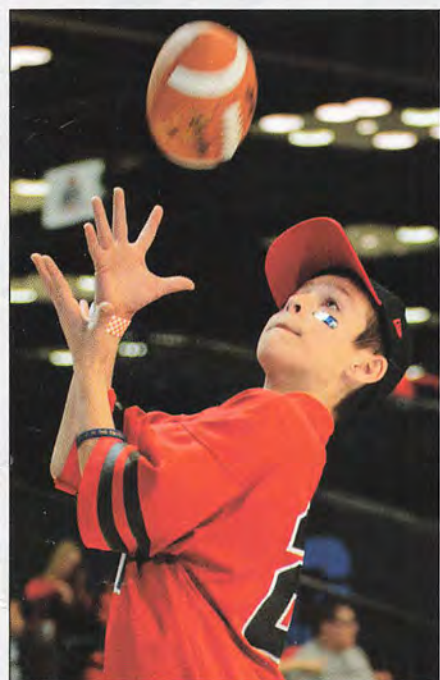


CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: From left, Joshua W. Lucas Oil Stadium. Delwyn, who grew up in Nel in three years. Richard Tate and Max Kuenstling. His father Dan was a 1990 alumni and Nick is sti grandpa Bill Davis talk with Wisconsin fans Jim the Dr. Pepper Big Ten tailgate.

Behind the N

NU invades Indianapolis

PHOTOS BY JOEL BISSELL & DARREN IVY



hburn of Charlottesville, Va., Delwyn Whitehead of Chesapeake, Va., Tony Whitehead of Charlottesville, Va. and Christian Whitehead pose for photo outside on, Neb. and attended his first Huskers game in 1951, was recently diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease and wanted to be able to attend his first NU game. drove from Omaha, Nebraska show off their Cornhusker spirit at the Big Ten game. Nick Rock of Omaha shows off his field goal skills prior to the game. in high school, but is considering going to Nebraska. The Nebraska cheerleaders perform at the pep rally held before the game. Michael Davis, 9, and his and Sara Clark before the Big Ten Championship. Camden Pace, 13, of Ohio, who is the son of 1988 NU graduate Raymond Pace, catches a football during



Nebraska quarterback Taylor Martinez found himself scrambling a lot due to pressure by Wisconsin's defense.

Offense struggles to keep pace with UW Martinez accounts for 324 yards of total offense

STORY BY MIKE JOHNSTON | PHOTO BY JOEL BISSELL

At first glance, it's hard to place too much of the blame for Nebraska's embarrassing 70-31 loss on the Husker offense. After all, the offense had little to do with Wisconsin chewing up chunks of yardage, drive after drive, due to missed tackles, poor angles and lackluster line play.

Yet, surprisingly enough, the offense should share part of the blame for Saturday's debacle. They were maddeningly inconsistent, proving to be capable of hitting big plays but unable to sustain drives.

Nebraska finished with 17 plays of 10 yards or more in the Big Ten title game, and most of those were courtesy of Taylor Martinez, either on the ground or through the air. Those dynamic plays were largely negated, however, by three crippling turnovers that kept momentum on the Badgers' sideline.

Things went poorly from the first offensive possession, when Martinez was intercepted on a tipped pass on his first attempt. From there on out, the Huskers were forced to play catch up, victim of a lopsided scoreboard that wasn't in

their favor.

"Well, obviously the situation of the game (got out of hand). I don't know how we would have played offensively," said Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini.

Equally troubling was the effectiveness of Wisconsin's pass rush, as they sacked Martinez six times and recorded eight tackles for loss.

"Number 11 (David Gilbert) created some havoc early and we had to help out with a running back," said running backs coach Ron Brown. "They were lining up out wide and wide rushing our left tackle and we had to have extra protection."

The after effect of that move was an inability to consistently run the ball, at least not in the way that the coaching staff would have liked. Rex Burkhead and Ameer Abdullah combined for just 79 yards on 16 carries, while Martinez finished with 19 rush attempts for 140 yards and two scores.

Most of Martinez's yards came on scrambles that were not by design, as he was running for his life from the Wisconsin attack. One such attempt resulted in a 76-yard score, his third run over 70 yards on the season.

"To be in those situations so often tells you that things aren't going well for us," said Brown. "Once we got into that early hole, things really began to snowball."

One positive for the Huskers was the late production of sophomore Braylon Heard and freshman Imani Cross.

The two combined to rush for 63 yards and two touchdowns on nine carries, for an average of seven yards per carry.

"I'm proud to say this team never gave up," said senior tight end Ben Cotton. "They played their tails off until the end of the game. That's one quality about this team that will never go away."



Stanley Jean-Baptiste misses a tackle as Melvin Gordon goes into the endzone for his touchdown.

Defense collapses against Badgers

STORY BY GRANT MUESSEL | PHOTO BY JOEL BISSELL

It was a night of terror for the Blackshirts in a 70-31 loss to Wisconsin in the Big Ten Championship game.

"Shock doesn't even begin to explain that," Bo Pelini said.

The Nebraska defense gave up a season-worst 70 points to the Badgers – the second worst all-time in the school's history – after holding the same team to 27 points in September. The 539 rushing yards Wisconsin gained on the ground were the most any Nebraska defense has given up, eclipsing Oklahoma's 506 rushing yards put up on the Huskers in 1956. Last time the two teams met, Nebraska held the Badgers to 56 net rushing yards; Badgers tailback Montee Ball gained fewer than 100 yards on the ground.

This time around, Ball was one of three Wisconsin running backs to pass over the 100-yard rushing threshold, totaling 202 yards on the ground with

three touchdowns. Melvin Gordon went home with the most yards on the ground though, with a total of 216 and a score. Gordon averaged more than 20 yards per carry on just nine touches out of the backfield.

James White was third in line for Wisconsin, finishing the night with 109 rushing yards, but found the endzone four times – the most of all three tailbacks. The last time Nebraska and Wisconsin met in the regular season, Ball, Gordon and White combined for just 95 rushing yards and three touchdowns. The Badgers averaged 10.8 yards per carry Saturday.

"I mean, everything went wrong," senior safety P.J. Smith said. "I'll put this on the defense. We didn't step up. We didn't do what we were supposed to do. We had a great game plan, we just didn't finish the plays."

Bo Pelini quickly dismissed the

notion that Wisconsin was "that much better" this time around, saying Wisconsin's offense didn't take the coaching staff off-guard. The speed sweep plays that Nebraska struggled to cover all night were nothing new, he said.

"We practiced 99 percent of what they showed us today," he said. "We didn't make tackles, we didn't make plays, obviously. We didn't coach it well enough."

Like the last game, Jared Abbrederis led the way for the Wisconsin's receiving corps, but had only 29 yards through the air. Wisconsin through just 10 total passes against the Huskers; two of which came on reverse passes. Abbrederis threw one of those passes; a 27-yard completion to the shadow of the endzone. White also through a 3-yard touchdown pass.

"I mean, it was like a leaking boat," Pelini said. "It wasn't much different than, to a large extent, than what happened at Ohio State."

Big Ten title game turns ugly shade of red

Huskers give up school-record 539 rushing yards in 70-31 setback

STORY BY GRANT MUESSEL | PHOTO BY JOEL BISSELL

With a chance to end three painful career coaching streaks, Bo Pelini and his Nebraska Cornhuskers came up short Saturday in the Big Ten Championship. After the 70-31 loss to Wisconsin, "coming up short" didn't do the game justice.

A chance to end Pelini's four-loss season skid, a chance to crack 11 wins and break through on a conference championship; all were in play Saturday night in Indianapolis, in a game that favored the Huskers by three points.

The senior captains Rex Burkhead, Will Compton, P.J. Smith and Ben Cotton, met Wisconsin for the coin toss. Compton called heads. The coin landed tail-side up, and it was all over.

"The way we practiced all week, I mean, if anything I'd thought it'd be the other way," said a misty-eyed Compton. "I don't know. I really don't know what happened."

It looked like comeback-business as usual for Nebraska when Wisconsin jumped out to an early 7-0 lead when a missed assignment on defense let UW running back Melvin Gordon break for a 56-yard score two minutes in. A Taylor Martinez pick-6 gave the Badgers a 14-0 lead before 10 seconds had run off the play clock.

What looked like a comeback surge came ahead of Nebraska's usual second-half schedule when Martinez eluded nearly every Wisconsin defender, some a couple times, for what may have been the most impressive run of his career in a 76-yard scramble to the endzone. Forget his runs at Kansas State and his 92-yard scamper against UCLA earlier in the season – this run quickly had rumblings as the best of his Husker career.

An unanswered field goal later, the next comeback only seemed like a matter of time. But then James White happened. Then he happened again. Montee Ball happened. James White happened again before the half. The Badgers took a 42-10 lead into the locker room. Tim Marlowe said the team's approach was justifiably similar at halftime to previous games.

"When we were down 35-10...it's still the first half, you know?" Tim Marlowe said. "We weren't too discouraged. ... We stalked at halftime, 'we're gonna make the greatest comeback in NCAA history,' and we came



Kenny Bell picks up a block from Quincy Enunwa during the Big Ten championship game.

out with that mindset. They just took it out of us from the first drive, and that was probably the moment."

That first drive he referred to, ended in a UW rushing touchdown after Martinez threw his second interception of the game.

Memories of Columbus, Ohio came rushing back when the Badgers broke 63 points – and still had a whole quarter of football left to play. About the only good thing for Nebraska to come from the third quarter was a bone-chattering block laid by Kenny Bell, opening up a touchdown reception from Martinez to Jamal Turner. But like all good things for Nebraska that Saturday, it was too good to be true, and the play was brought back after Bell was flagged for unnecessary roughness.

When it finally ended and the scoreboard read 70-31, two Wisconsin running backs finished with more than 200 yards rushing, another passed 100. The Huskers gave up a season-worst 70 points and 539 yards on the ground.

"We failed," Pelini said of the season. "We failed to win a championship. That was the goal coming in and (we) didn't get it done. I apologize to the coaches, the fans, like I said, everybody associated with it. Because at the end of the day, it falls on me."

Imani Cross and Braylon Heard each saw time in the fourth quarter at tailback – just not for the reasons Husker fans had hoped for. Each nabbed a touchdown late; Cross with his seventh on the year with a career-long 26-yard dash. Heard notched his third touchdown of the year.

It was too little too late for Nebraska though, which couldn't stop Wisconsin from breaking 70 points running up the middle nearly all of the fourth quarter.

"It's hard, because I told (the players) last night that I was proud of the journey that they've had since we've been here," defensive coordinator John Papuchis said. "The truth is, regardless of how we played tonight, I still was proud of the way they played this season."

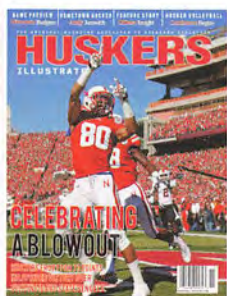
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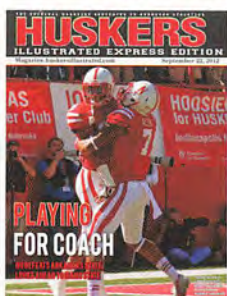
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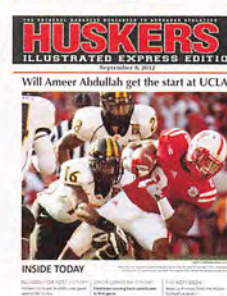
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HONORS PILE UP FOR NU PLAYERS



SENIOR REX BURKHEAD STRETCHES FOR YARDS AGAINST WISCONSIN. BURKHEAD WAS NAMED A FIRST-TEAM ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN.

PHOTO BY JOEL BISSELL

By Darren Ivy

Senior I-back Rex Burkhead and senior linebacker Sean Fisher were named to the Capital One Academic All-America Division I football team, as chosen by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Both players are repeat honorees on the academic All-America team. Burkhead was a first-team selection for the second consecutive year, while Fisher earned second-team honors for the second straight year. With its two Academic All-Americans, Nebraska was one of only eight schools to have two or more players on the Division I team. Northern Illinois had three players honored, while Nebraska was one of seven schools with two players selected.

The selection of Burkhead and Fisher allowed Nebraska to reach an unprecedented milestone. Burkhead and Fisher become Nebraska's 300th and 301st all-time Academic All-Americans across all sports, making Nebraska the first school across all divisions to reach that milestone. Notre Dame is second with 227 Academic All-Americans all-time. No other school has reached 200 Academic All-Americans.

In football alone, Nebraska now has a nation-leading 68 first-team CoSIDA Academic All-America selections in football, including 15 double winners. Burkhead's first-team selection marks the second straight year Nebraska has had a two-time first-team academic All-American, joining Austin Cassidy who achieved that status in 2010 and 2011. Overall, Nebraska increased its total to 104 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans when including 36 second- or third-team honorees. Notre Dame is second in football Academic All-Americans with 58.

Burkhead carries a 3.448 cumulative grade-point average in history and is scheduled to graduate next week, completing his undergraduate work in just 3 ½ years. Burkhead ranks fifth in Nebraska history with more than 3,200 career rushing yards. Burkhead is the second running back in school history to be a two-time first-team Academic All-American, joining fullback Joel Makovicka who accomplished the feat in 1997 and 1998.

Fisher continues to excel as one of the nation's top student-athletes. A graduate of Millard North High School, Fisher carries a perfect 4.0 grade-point average in business administration/pre-medicine. On the field, Fisher was a key element for the Husker defense in 2012, registering 47 tackles in his senior season. As a two-time second-team selection, Fisher is one of 26 Husker football players who have earned Academic All-America honors in multiple years.

Burkhead and Fisher were two of four Nebraska players to earn CoSIDA Academic All-District VII honors in November, earning a spot on the national ballot. Offensive guard Spencer Long and tight end Jake Long also earned all-district honors and Nebraska's four academic all-district picks were second in the nation, and tied for first among FBS schools.

The two CoSIDA Academic All-America selections in 2012 give Nebraska eight football Academic All-Americans

HI'S TOP 5

COSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS IN ALL SPORTS

SEAN FISHER (42) WAS ONE OF TWO ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS FOR NU THIS SEASON.



JOSH WOLFE/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

	SCHOOL	TOTAL	2012-13
1	NEBRASKA	301	2
2	NOTRE DAME	227	4
3	MIT	193	4
4	PENN STATE	178	3
5	STANFORD	174	0

Seniors Rex Burkhead and Sean Fisher were recently honored for being academic All-Americans. NU surpassed 300 academic All-Americans across all sports with the achievements and continues to lead the country.

in Head Coach Bo Pelini's first five seasons. In addition to Burkhead and Fisher's selections, receiver Todd Peterson and linebacker Tyler Wortman were second-team selections in 2008, while Cassidy was a first-team pick in both 2010 and 2011.

NU PLAYERS EARN BIG TEN HONORS FROM COACHES, MEDIA

Nebraska had several players who were honored by the Big Ten coaches and media including the following:

Bakken-Andersen Kicker of the Year: Brett Maher (co-recipient with Northwestern's Jeff Budzien)

Named for Illinois' Dike Eddleman and Michigan State's Brandon Fields

First-Team All-Big Ten: OG Spencer Long (Media and Coaches); QB Taylor Martinez (Coaches); PK Brett Maher (Media); DE Eric Martin (Media); S Daimion Stafford (Media)

Second-Team All-Big Ten: WR Kenny Bell (Media and Coaches); OT Jeremiah Sirles (Media and Coaches); IB Ameer Abdullah (Coaches); PK/P Brett Maher (Coaches); DE Eric Martin (Coaches); DT Baker Steinkuhler (Coaches); LB Will Compton (Coaches); S Daimion Stafford (Coaches)

Honorable-Mention All-Big Ten: Coaches—TE Ben Cotton, CB Cianté Evans, C Justin Jackson, S P.J. Smith; Media—Abdullah, Compton, Cotton, Evans, Jackson, Maher (punter), TE Kyler Reed, Smith, Steinkuhler.

BURKHEAD NAMED CAPTAIN OF ALL-STATE AFCA GOOD WORKS TEAM

Rex Burkhead has been voted as captain of the All-state AFCA Good Works Team. The honor for Burkhead was announced during ESPN's College Football Awards Show. Burkhead was one of 11 FBS football players named to the Good Works Team earlier this season.

Earlier on Thursday, Burkhead was named a first-team Academic All-American for the second consecutive year, and earned academic all-conference honors for the third time in his career.

"As a student-athlete committed to having a real impact on his community, Rex Burkhead embodies the true spirit of the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team®," said Kathy Mabe, president of Allstate's West regions and a member of the 2012 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team voting panel. "Rex's leadership off the field and dedication to serving others represents all that is good in college football, and Allstate congratulates him on being named the 2012 team captain."

SPENCER LONG EARNS WALTER

CAMP ALL-AMERICAN HONORS

Nebraska junior offensive guard Spencer Long has been named a second-team All-American according to the Walter Camp Football Foundation.

The 6-4, 305-pound Long was the anchor of a Nebraska offensive line that has helped the Husker offense rank eighth nationally and lead the Big Ten in rushing offense. Nebraska also leads the Big Ten in total offense at 462.2 yards per game and ranks second in the Big Ten in scoring offense.

The play of Long and his offensive line teammates helped Nebraska sophomore I-back Ameer Abdullah rush for more than 1,000 yards and eight touchdowns this season. In addition, quarterback Taylor Martinez has 973 rushing yards this season and has posted the second-highest total offense season in Nebraska school history.

Long's selection to the Walter Camp All-America team marks the fourth-straight year that Nebraska has had either a first or second-team All-America selection. A graduate of Elkhorn High School, Long earned first-team All-Big Ten honors from both the league's coaches and media panel. Long was also an Academic All-District VII selection and was a first-team Academic All-Big Ten choice.

NU-OU GAMES WILL OFFICIALLY HAPPEN IN 2021 AND 2022

The Nebraska Athletic Department announced that it has signed a contract for a home-and-home football series with the University of Oklahoma. The two long-time rivals will renew their historic rivalry with games in 2021 in Norman and 2022 in Lincoln.

The first matchup is scheduled for Sept. 18, 2021, at Oklahoma, and the teams will meet at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln on Sept. 17, 2022.

"Our rivalry with Oklahoma has been one of the great traditional matchups in the history of college football," Nebraska Athletic Director Tom Osborne said. "The games between the two schools were generally to decide a conference championship, and many times helped determine the national champion. Those matchups were always played with great intensity on the field, but with a great deal of respect from both sides and among the fan bases.

"I know our fans look forward to non-conference games against high-profile opponents like Oklahoma. I'm pleased we were able to finalize this series."

The long-time Big Six, Big Seven, Big Eight and Big 12 foes have met 86 times on the gridiron, with Oklahoma holding a 45-38-3 advantage in the all-time series. The schools met 71 straight seasons from 1927 to 1998, before the Big 12's scheduling rotation changed the an-

nual matchup.

The 2021 game in Norman will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1971 "Game of the Century" between the schools. The contest is the most famous in the series and generally regarded as one of the greatest games in college football history. Top-ranked Nebraska edged No. 2 Oklahoma, 35-31, in Norman and went on to capture its second straight national championship.

The Game of the Century started a run of NU-OU games from 1971 to 1988 in which both teams were ranked in the top 11 of the Associated Press Poll in 17 of 19 meetings. Overall, at least one team has been ranked in the top 10 nationally in 48 of the games, with two top 10 teams 18 times. Since the Associated Press Poll began, the "Battle of the Big Reds" has featured at least one ranked team in 60 of 70 games.

Nebraska holds a 9-6 lead in the series since 1991. The last meeting between the two schools occurred in the 2010 Big 12 Championship Game, with Oklahoma posting a 23-20 victory in Arlington, Texas. Nebraska won the most recent regular-season matchup between the schools, posting a 10-3 win in Lincoln in 2009. Nebraska holds a 20-17-2 advantage in Lincoln, while Oklahoma has a 23-16 edge in games played in Norman. The games with Oklahoma are the first games on Nebraska's schedule in 2021 and 2022. Nebraska expects to announce other future non-conference games in the coming weeks.

SOUTHERN MISS VS. NEBRASKA TO BE PLAYED IN LINCOLN IN 2013

Nebraska and Southern Miss officials announced that the 2013 football game between the schools will be played at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln. The contest on Sept. 7, 2013, was originally scheduled to be played in Hattiesburg, Miss., on the same date.

The game will be the second in a three-game agreement with Southern Miss. The schools opened the 2012 season against each other with Nebraska winning, 49-20, on Sept. 1. Southern Miss is also scheduled to visit Lincoln on Sept. 26, 2015.

"There were discussions about moving this game to a neutral site, but as we continued to talk with Southern Miss, moving the game to Lincoln became an option," Nebraska Athletic Director Tom Osborne said. "That opportunity appeared to be the most beneficial for both schools at this time."

The change in the schedule will give Nebraska eight home games in the 2013 season, including the Huskers' first five games of the year. Nebraska will open the 2013 season against Wyoming on Aug. 31 and also have home non-conference games with UCLA (Sept. 14) and South Dakota State (Sept. 21).

2012-13 Bowl Schedule

Dec. 15, Noon - Gildan New Mexico - Nevada vs. Arizona (ESPN)

Dec. 15, 3:30 p.m. - Famous Idaho Potato - Toledo vs. Utah State (ESPN)

Dec. 20, 7 p.m. - Poinsettia - BYU vs. San Diego State (ESPN)

Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m. - Beef O'Brady St. Petersburg - UCF vs. Ball State (ESPN)

Dec. 22, 11 a.m. - R+L Carriers New Orleans - East Carolina vs. La.-Lafayette (ESPN)

Dec. 22, 2:30 p.m. - MAACO Las Vegas - Washington vs. Boise State (ESPN)

Dec. 24, 7 p.m. - Sheraton Hawaii - Fresno State vs. SMU (ESPN)

Dec. 26, 6:30 p.m. - Little Caesars Pizza - Western Kentucky vs. Central Michigan (ESPN)

Dec. 27, 2 p.m. - Military Bowl by Northrop Grumman - San Jose State vs. Bowling Green (ESPN)

Dec. 27, 5:30 p.m. - Belk - Cincinnati vs. Duke (ESPN)

Dec. 27, 8:45 p.m. - Bridgeport Education Holiday - Baylor vs. UCLA (ESPN)

Dec. 28, 1 p.m. - AdvoCare V100 Independence - Ohio vs. La-Monroe (ESPN)

Dec. 28, 4:30 p.m. - Russell Athletic - Rutgers vs. Virginia Tech (ESPN)

Dec. 28, 8 p.m. - Meineke Car Care of Texas - Minnesota vs. Texas Tech (ESPN)

Dec. 29, 10:45 a.m. - Bell Helicopter Armed Forces - Rice vs. Air Force (ESPN)

Dec. 29, 2:15 p.m. - New Era Pinstripe - West Virginia vs. Syracuse (ESPN)

Dec. 29, 3 p.m. - Kraft Fight Hunger - Navy vs. Arizona State (ESPN2)

Dec. 29, 5:45 p.m. - Valero Alamo - Texas vs. Oregon State (ESPN)

Dec. 29, 9:15 p.m. - Buffalo Wild Wings - TCU vs. Michigan State (ESPN)

Dec. 31, 11 a.m. - Franklin American Mortgage Music City - NC State vs. Vanderbilt (ESPN)

Dec. 31, 1 p.m. - Hyundai Sun - USC vs. Georgia Tech (CBS)

Dec. 31, 2:30 p.m. - AutoZone Liberty - Iowa State vs. Tulsa (ESPN)

Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m. - Chick-fil-A - LSU vs. Clemson (ESPN)

Jan. 1, 11 a.m. - TaxSlayer.com Gator - Miss. State vs. Northwestern (ESPN2)

Jan. 1, 11 a.m. - Heart of Dallas - Purdue vs. Oklahoma State (ESPNU)

Jan. 1, Noon - Outback - South Carolina vs. Michigan (ESPN)

Jan. 1, Noon - Capital One - Nebraska vs. Georgia (ABC)

Jan. 1, 4 p.m. - Rose Bowl presented by Vizio - Wisconsin vs. Stanford (ESPN)

Jan. 1, 7:30 p.m. - Discover Orange - Northern Illinois vs. Florida State (ESPN)

Jan. 2, 7:30 p.m. - All-State Sugar - Louisville vs. Florida (ESPN)

Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m. - Tostitos Fiesta - Oregon vs. Kansas State (ESPN)

Jan. 4, 7 p.m. - AT&T Cotton - Texas A&M vs. Oklahoma (ESPN)

Jan. 5, Noon - BBVA Compass - Pittsburgh vs. Ole Miss (ESPN)

Jan. 6, 8 p.m. - GoDaddy.com - Kent State vs. Arkansas State (ESPN)

Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m. - Discover National Championship - Notre Dame vs. Alabama (ESPN)

* All Game Times CST



INDY EXPERIENCE

PHOTOS BY DARREN IVY & JOEL BISSELL



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Fans hold ears and hold us signs. Fans Zegers, Ethan and tailgate outside. Greg Pollard, Jason gather together from Nebraska, a few Nebraska a game. Jason Ro Ten Champion. Burkhead sign Royal (8) tries c stream into the



FROM RIGHT: Lindy Reeves of Kalamazoo, Mich. and Deb Bosle of Hastings, Neb. hold up ears of corn. Orbie Bowels, Jean Junker and Julie Haney, all of Columbus, Ohio, hold up a sign. From left: Angie Nelson, Linda Nelson, Zach Zegers, Kim Zegers, Quinn Zegers and Chad Berlowitz, all from Lincoln and surrounding areas, hold up a sign. From left, Sean Lucas, Glen Gahan, Todd Bircher, John Bircher, Mark McDowell, John Erickson, Jeff Mott, and Dave Erickson, all from Lincoln, hold up a sign. They are Nebraska fanatics coming to the game. From left, Mike Cuzzone, a Big Ten representative, huddles up a group of Wisconsin fans during a Dr. Pepper fun challenge event prior to the game. A fan of Omaha calls his brother after he got separated before the game. Despite NU being behind, fans proudly hold up their Rex the Puma during the fourth quarter. Josh Royal (9) of Omaha watches as Jacob Kennedy Bell's gloves after he threw them to him after the game. Fans arrive at the stadium shortly before kickoff.



Nebraska has a lot to prove in bowl game match-up with Georgia

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

Disney World probably can't come soon enough for the Nebraska football team.

December can be a long cold month, with players polishing off finals, returning home for a brief respite at the holidays and coaches coming in and out of the offices because of recruiting trips.

It will seem even longer this year for Nebraska following its 70-31 loss at the hands of Wisconsin in the Big Ten championship game. But while the taste of the title game defeat is still beyond bitter for fans and anybody associated with the program, the time between now and the bowl game on Jan. 1 is an important one for Nebraska.

Why? Bowl practices.

When Georgia Tech raised a fit to be bowl eligible despite having a losing record earlier this season, it wasn't just the prestige of going to a mid-level bowl game or the bowl payouts. Bowl eligible teams get another full month of practices before bowl games, which can be huge for getting the following season off on the right track.

Nebraska won't practice everyday between now and New Year's Day, but what happens in those practices will be huge for redshirted freshmen who were on the cusp of maybe getting on the field as true freshmen.

The next few weeks are a time for young linebackers like Michael Rose, Thomas Brown and Jared Afalava to show that they're ready to step in during spring practices after the bowl game. That's particularly important on defense, and more specifically at linebacker, where Nebraska will be replacing Will Compton, Alonzo Whaley and — should he choose to start medical school and forgo a sixth season of eligibility — Sean Fisher, and will have few tested returners at the position.

It's a time to experiment with younger players at new positions and start to see who gained the most out of their redshirt years. For guys like Kenny Bell and Jamal Turner, it was during bowl practices that coaches began to see flashes of what would show up on the field the following season.

But in the midst of looking forward, there is still plenty to be gained on the field against Georgia in Orlando. Yes, Nebraska is returning to a bowl game it played in a year ago, and repeat bowl games haven't always worked out swimmingly for Nebraska in the past, but there is plenty to prove against the Bulldogs. For one, the Huskers are going to be facing a team that took Alabama down to the final play, coming up just a few yards short of advancing to the national title game.



When it came time to pick a bowl game, NU AD Tom Osborne and Bo Pelini both agreed that NU needed to take on a team like Georgia - to exorcise a few demons from Indy.

Also, from a perception point, knocking off an SEC team on national television would go far to burnish Nebraska's image nationally and give the Huskers a huge boost to finish off the 2013 recruiting class and carry over into winter conditioning and spring practice.

As Nebraska's players and coaches trickled out of the Lucas Oil Stadium locker rooms and headed to the buses, a number of players walked with heads bowed, still in shock because of what had taken place on the field. Nebraska running backs coach summed up things pretty simple.

"We got our heinies beat," Brown said. "It wasn't just that we got beat, it's how we got beat."

When it came time to pick a bowl game, Nebraska athletic director Tom Osborne and head coach Bo Pelini both agreed that Nebraska needed to take on a team like Georgia — to exorcise a few demons from Indianapolis — and get some mojo back heading into next season.

Nebraska was flying high on a six game winning streak before the gut punch in Indianapolis, but there is plenty ahead for this program. Despite disappointing losses to Ohio State and Wisconsin, Nebraska could still finish with 11 wins, and knock off a veteran, high-powered SEC team in the process.

It's time to get to work. **N**

Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com. Follow him on Twitter @michaelbruntz

THEBIGTENBEAT

Expect the Unexpected in Big Ten

Wisconsin upsets Cornhuskers in title game, then Bielema leaves Badgers for Arkansas. | DOUG GRIFFITHS

Who would've ever thought a coach who just earned his program's third straight Rose Bowl trip would ever up and leave for another school even prior to the "Granddaddy Of Them All"? But expect the unexpected at least in the Big Ten this season as Wisconsin's Bret Bielema opted for the greener pastures of the SEC and left Madison for Arkansas.

Yes, with the latest Big Ten development, a very tough regular season just became a very tumultuous pre-bowl season with the news of Bielema choosing to leave one of the league's most successful programs in recent history to head to what many consider a second-rate SEC job. Bielema's departure became known on Dec. 4. Just hours before word came down about Bielema, Purdue lost out on Cincinnati coach Butch Jones, who was the school's first-choice to replace Danny Hope, who was fired shortly after the regular season. Colorado officials believe they have a commitment from Jones to be its next head coach, but Jones says he has not accepted the Colorado job.

Anyway you spin it, it's not good for the Big Ten's perception that one of its most successful football coaches bolts for a bigger payday and another Big Ten school can't lure a BIG EAST coach to supposedly one of the premier conferences in the nation.

"I think the money aspect will take care of itself," said ESPN college football analyst Matt Millen, a former Penn State and NFL standout football player, when evaluating why Bielema left Wisconsin after such a successful run. "It's available. It's going to have to be part of the equation. I think the biggest thing, regardless of the money that's going to be spent, is to get the right fit for your team. As an athletic director, you have to know exactly what your team is and you have to know the guy you're bringing in.

"College football changes," Millen added. "There's a lot more changeover every four years or sometimes three years you're losing guys so you have to get a guy that's going to fit the style of football you want, that has been there and that you want it to become."

Bielema is getting about an \$800,000 annual pay raise at Arkansas, but apparently he was unhappy with Wisconsin's commitment to his coaching staff, complaining about their salaries.

Wisconsin athletic director Barry Alvarez

was stunned when Bielema told him he was leaving.

"I was very surprised when Bret told me he was taking the offer from Arkansas," Alvarez said. "He did a great job for us during his seven years as head coach, both on and off the field. I want to thank him for his work and wish him the best at Arkansas."

You know deep down Alvarez is seething and at least Wisconsin Nation will loath the SEC even more, and it's safe to expect all of Big Ten Country will frown upon the SEC even more than ever before now that one of those schools have snatched one of the Big Ten's top bosses. Speaking of the Big Ten and SEC, the Big Ten will have its work cut out come the upcoming bowl season.

Three of the Big Ten's seven bowl matchups are against SEC teams and the conference will be underdogs in each one of their games against what's considered the best conference in America. In fact, the Big Ten is an underdog in each of its seven bowl games this holiday season and two of the teams - Purdue and Minnesota - are double-digit dogs to Oklahoma State and Texas Tech, respectively.

Needless to say, it could be another rough bowl season for the Big Ten. That's not good news for a conference that is just 20-34 in bowl games since 2005.

Huskers Illustrated takes a look at some of the latest football happenings at other Big Ten schools.

ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI

Even though Tim Beckman finished just his first season at Illinois, there was plenty of speculation that the former Toledo coach might be ousted. Illinois athletic director Mike Thomas squashed all of that talk by saying Beckman will return for Year 2, but don't expect him to be around if the Illini suffer another winless Big Ten season. Winning more games next season won't be easy when you consider some of Illinois' key defensive players will be departing.

The Illini will enter next year's Big Ten schedule having lost 19 straight conference games and considering they face Nebraska, Wisconsin, Michigan State and Penn State to open. Expect staff changes before spring practice as something must be done to try and bolster an offense that ranked 119th nationally (out of 120 FBS teams).

LEGENDS DIVISION

2012 Standings

Team	Overall Record	Conference Record
Nebraska	10-3	7-2
Michigan	8-4	6-2
Northwestern	9-3	5-3
Michigan State	6-6	3-5
Minnesota	6-6	2-6
Iowa	4-8	2-6

LEADERS DIVISION

2012 Standings

Team	Overall Record	Conference Record
Ohio State	12-0	7-0
Penn State	8-4	6-2
Wisconsin	8-5	5-4
Purdue	6-6	3-5
Indiana	4-8	2-6
Illinois	2-10	0-8

BOWL GAMES

Dec. 28 Game

Meineke Car Care Bowl of Texas

Minnesota vs. Texas Tech, 8 p.m.

CDT, ESPN (Houston, Texas)

Dec. 29 Game

Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl

Michigan State vs. TCU, 9:15 p.m.,

ESPN (Tempe, Ariz.)

Jan. 1 Games

Taxslayer.com Gator Bowl

Northwestern vs. Mississippi State,

11 a.m., ESPN2 (Jacksonville, Fla.)

Heart of Dallas Bowl

Purdue vs. Oklahoma State, 11 a.m.,

ESPNU (Dallas, Texas)

Capital One Bowl

Nebraska vs. Georgia, Noon, ABC

(Orlando, Fla.)

Outback Bowl

Michigan vs. South Carolina, Noon,

ESPN (Tampa, Fla.)

Rose Bowl Presented By Vizio

Wisconsin vs. Stanford, 4 p.m.,

ESPN (Pasadena, Calif.)

LEGENDS **BIG** LEADERS



INDIANA HOOSIERS

IU has only been to one bowl game the last 19 years, but Kevin Wilson and his Hoosiers think the 2013 season can deliver the Cream and Crimson to the post-season for the first time since 2007. The Hoosiers' reason for optimism stems from the fact that it won two more Big Ten games than they did a year ago and finished 4-8 overall. Plus, nine IU players were selected first- or second-team All-Big Ten, the most all-conference selections for the Hoosiers since 2001. In addition, Coach Kevin Wilson will welcome back several returning starters, including quarterback Tre Roberson, who missed most of the season after breaking his leg at Massachusetts. Cam Coffman and Nate Sudfeld started in Roberson's absence and they'll be back. Running back Stephen Houston, who totaled 263 yards of offense against Purdue, returns as well. Also, back will be a very solid receiving corps led by second-team All-Big Ten pick Cody Latimer. If IU is to return in the post-season, it must improve dramatically on defense, which won't be easy considering its two best players - tackles Larry Black Jr. and Adam Replogle - depart.

IOWA HAWKEYES

Hawkeye coach Kirk Ferentz held a press conference after his Iowa team's 4-8 season ended and immediately media members began peppering him about his coaching staff, in particular offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Greg Davis.

"Greg's an excellent football coach," said Ferentz, who suffered his worst season since 2000. "He's a tremendous professional and a tremendous person. So I've got every bit of confidence that Greg will be in. Not only getting into tenures or job security and all that stuff. That's not what we're here for. But Greg's a tremendous football coach. We wouldn't have brought him here 10 months ago or however many if we didn't feel that way. I feel stronger about the kind of coaching person he is now after working with him."

Although Ferentz said Davis' job is safe, he's taking a wait-and-see approach with his remaining staff. With that said, the Iowa boss said, "The majority of these guys were here in '08 and '09 (when we won 20 games). It's not like we've got a bunch of dumbbells."

MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

Michigan might be going to another New Year's Day Bowl game, but that's not good enough to satisfy Coach Brady Hoke. The second-year Wolverine boss didn't like a few things about the 2012 regular season, one of them being losing to Ohio State.

"We didn't win the championship and that's the expectation," said Hoke a couple days after his team lost to the Buckeyes 26-21.

"I think there was some growth. I think that growth is probably as much how the senior class came together. I think it also is for the young guys who played some valuable snaps in football games. It's disappointing to all of us. More disappointing because of the seniors, for them."

Michigan's Big Ten title drought now stands at nine years as the Big Blue hasn't won the championship since 2003.

MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

The Spartans didn't become bowl eligible until the final day of their regular season and now face a tough task in TCU in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl. MSU, 6-6 overall, will go into that game having lost four of its last six games. All four of those losses came by four points or less. If you like offense, you may not want to tune into the Spartans vs. the Horned Frogs. TCU is 64th nationally in total offense, including 55th in passing, while MSU is 89th in total offense, including 77th in passing. If it's defense you like, however, you should be in for a good one. Both teams led their conferences in total defense and rushing defense. Michigan State hopes its defense leads it to its second straight bowl win. TCU, on the other hand, will be looking for its third straight bowl triumph and seventh victory out of its last eight bowl appearances.

MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

Current Minnesota athletic director Norwood Teague continues to stand by Jerry Kill, who has since returned to work, and says he has received medical assurance that the seizures won't hinder Kill's work. Quarterback Max Shortell, who started three games for the Gophers this season, is going to transfer. Shortell's days seemed to be numbered with the program once Kill decided to take the redshirt off of quarterback Philip Nelson. Nelson's backup in the Meineke Car Care Bowl of Texas will be MarQueis Gray, who lost his starting job once he injured his left arm in October. Down the stretch, Gray has primarily been used as a receiver in Kill's offense.

NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS

As the Northwestern Wildcats prepare for yet another bowl appearance, Pat Fitzgerald's players have one thing on their minds - bringing home the school's first bowl game victory since 1949. The 'Cats will face Mississippi State in the Gator Bowl looking to snap a seven-game bowl losing streak. This will mark the third time in four seasons that Northwestern will be playing in a New Year's Day bowl game and is bowl eligible for the sixth time in Fitzgerald's seven seasons at his alma mater. Northwestern's last bowl win game against California in the 1949 Rose Bowl. The 'Cats' all-time bowl record stands at 1-9.

OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

The 2013 season can't get here soon enough for Urban Meyer's Buckeyes. In just his first season as OSU's head coach, Meyer led the Scarlet and Gray to an undefeated season, but will have to deal with sitting at home for the holidays due to a one-year post-season ban. As Meyer begins preparation on the 2013 season, he's focused on his team not getting complacent. Meyer can be at ease somewhat knowing he'll return quarterback Braxton Miller, who was recently tabbed CBSSports.com's Big Ten Offensive Player of the year. With Miller and many other starters returning next season, the Buckeyes are a lock to be ranked among the nation's top five when preseason polls begin surfacing shortly after the 2012-13 bowl season concludes.

PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

The Maxwell Football Club announced it will honor senior members of the Penn State football team with its Thomas Brookshier Spirit Award in recognition of their commitment, leadership and outstanding effort during the 2012 season. The Nittany Lions, under the leadership of first-year coach Bill O'Brien, this year's winner of the Big Ten Dave McClain Coach of the Year Award, won eight of their last 10 games to finish 8-4. "The senior leaders at Penn State demonstrated incredible commitment, character and effort during the past year, and what they accomplished on the field this fall is just astonishing," Maxwell Football Club President Ron Jaworski said.

PURDUE BOILERMAKERS

Purdue might not have got its first choice when filling its football head coaching vacancy, but by all indications the Boilermakers got one heck of a coach in Darrell Hazell, who comes to West Lafayette from Kent State where he guided the Golden Flashes for an 11-2 record this year, not bad when you consider Kent State's program has spent most of the last several decades as the Mid-American Conference's cellar-dweller.

WISCONSIN BADGERS

A.D. Barry Alvarez didn't have much time to celebrate the school's third-straight Big Ten Championship and Rose Bowl trip as he's in full coaching search mode since Bret Bielema left so abruptly. Bielema guided the Badgers to a 68-24 record during his tenure. He made \$2.5 million a season at Wisconsin and now will make \$3.2 million annually for six years at Arkansas with another \$700,000 in annual incentives. Arkansas will pay Bielema's \$1 million buyout to Wisconsin. Reports are circulating that Boise State coach Chris Petersen may be interviewed very soon. Petersen is the winningest active coach in the FBS with an 83-8 record.

GameStats

SUMMARY

SCORING

December 1, 2012
Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, Ind.
Attendance: 41,260

	1	2	3	4	F
NEBRASKA	10	0	7	14	31
WISCONSIN	21	21	21	7	70

- Q1** 13:01 WIS - Gordon, Melvin 56 yd run (French, Kyle kick) 4-75 1:59
12:53 WIS - Cromartie, Marcus 29 yd interception return (French, Kyle kick)
10:58 NEB - Martinez, Taylor 76 yd run (Maher, Brett kick) 3-75 1:55
04:46 NEB - Maher, Brett 32 yd field goal 10-76 4:30
01:01 WIS - White, James 9 yd run (French, Kyle kick) 8-75 3:45
- Q2** 11:11 WIS - White, James 1 yd run (French, Kyle kick) 6-67 3:07
07:15 WIS - Ball, Montee 16 yd run (French, Kyle kick) 6-69 2:32
00:02 WIS - Arneson, Sam 3 yd pass from James White (French, Kyle kick) 4-79 0:59
- Q3** 14:13 WIS - Ball, Montee 9 yd run (Russell, Jack kick) 1-9 0:05
10:47 NEB - Martinez, Taylor 11 yd run (Maher, Brett kick) 9-75 3:26
09:27 WIS - Ball, Montee 57 yd run (Russell, Jack kick) 1-9 0:05
06:42 WIS - White, James 68 yd run (Russell, Jack kick) 4-80 1:55
- Q4** 12:14 NEB - Heard, Braylon 9 yd run (Maher, Brett kick) 11-74 4:12
08:57 WIS - Heard, Braylon 9 yd run (Russell, Jack kick) 6-75 3:17
00:51 NEB - Cross, Imani 26 yd run (Maher, Brett kick) 9-82 3:58

NEB	WIS
0	7
0	14
7	14
10	14
10	21
10	28
10	35
10	42
10	49
17	49
17	56
17	63
24	63
24	70
31	70

TEAM STATS

	NEB	WIS
FIRST DOWNS	23	24
Rushing	11	19
Passing	9	4
Penalty	3	1
NET YARDS RUSHING	282	539
Rushing Attempts	44	50
Average Per Rush	6.4	10.8
Rushing Touchdowns	4	8
Yards Gained Rushing	322	552
Yards Lost Rushing	40	13
NET YARDS PASSING	195	101
Completions-Attempts-Int.	18-34-2	8-10-0
Average Per Attempt	5.7	10.1
Average Per Completion	10.8	12.6
Passing Touchdowns	0	1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	477	640
Total offense plays	78	60
Average Gain Per Play	6.1	10.7
Fumbles: Number-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	4-40	4-51
PUNTS-YARDS	5-204	3-141
Average Yards Per Punt	40.8	47.0
Net Yards Per Punt	40.8	47.3
Inside 20	1	2
50+ Yards	1	1
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	2	0
KICKOFFS-YARDS	6-390	11-702
Average Yards Per Kickoff	65.0	63.8
Net Yards Per Kickoff	40.0	38.6
Touchbacks	6	9
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	3-18-0	3-7-0
Average Per Return	6.0	2.3

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Martinez, Taylor	19	176	36	140	2	76	7.4
Burkhead, Rex	11	61	0	61	0	19	5.5
Cross, Imani	3	35	0	35	1	26	11.7
Heard, Braylon	6	32	4	28	1	11	4.7
Abdullah, Ameer	5	18	0	18	0	7	3.6
Totals	44	322	40	282	4	76	6.4

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Martinez, Taylor	17-33-2	184	0	32	6
Burkhead, Rex	1-1-0	11	0	11	0

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Turner, Jamal	5	63	0	32
Enunwa, Quincy	5	51	0	26
Reed, Kyler	2	29	0	16
Burkhead, Rex	2	18	0	17
Bell, Kenny	2	14	0	9
Abdullah, Ameer	1	11	0	11
Cotton, Ben	1	9	0	9
Totals	22	311	2	36

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Maher, Brett	5	204	40.8	53	1	0

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Burkhead, Rex	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bell, Kenny	0	0	0	1	29	29	0	0	0
Abdullah, Ameer	0	0	0	1	23	23	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Maher, Brett	1st	4:46	32 yards	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TEL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
11 Green, And.	8	0	8	-	1-7	-	-	-	-	-	-
42 Fisher, Sean	7	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1C Osborne, C.	5	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3A Stafford, D.	5	1	6	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
46 Martin, Eric	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34 Meredith, C.	1	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13 Smith, P.J.	4	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51 Compton, Will	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 Whaley, Alon	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
53 Randle, T.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
80 Bell, Kenny	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17 Evans, Diante	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7A Carter, Joe	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 Jean-Baptiste, S.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
97 Rome, Chase	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
39 Blatchford, J.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TEAM STATS

Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	1-1-0	0-0-0
Average Per Return	-1.0	0.0
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	2-51-1
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Possession Time	30:15	29:45
Third-Down Conversions	6 of 16	5 of 9
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 2	0 of 0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-3	6-6
Touchdowns	2-3	6-6
Field goals	1-3	0-0
Sacks By: Number-Yards	0-0	6-33
PAT Kicks	4-4	10-10
Field Goals	1-1	0-1

WISCONSIN

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Gordon, Melvin	9	216	0	216	1	60	24.0
Ball, Montee	21	202	0	202	3	57	9.6
White, James	15	119	0	109	4	68	7.3
Doe, Kenzel	1	12	0	12	0	12	12.0
Phillips, Curt	2	3	0	3	0	3	1.5
TEAM	2	0	3	-3	2	0	-1.5
Totals	50	552	13	539	8	68	10.8

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Phillips, Curt	6-8-0	71	0	22	0
White, James	1-1-0	3	1	3	0
Abbrederis, Jared	1-1-0	27	0	27	0

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Abbrederis, Jared	2	29	0	16
Phillips, Curt	1	27	0	27
White, James	1	22	0	22
Watt, Derek	1	10	0	10
Pederson, Jacob	1	9	0	9
Arneson, Sam	1	3	1	3
Duckworth, Jeff	1	1	0	1
Totals	8	101	1	27

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Meyer, Drew	3	141	47.0	61	2	0

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Smith, Devin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	22	22
Cromartie, Marcus	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	29	29

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
French, Kyle	2nd	02:32	45 yds	Missed

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TEL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
44 Borland, Chris	5	13	-	1-1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
12 Southward, D.	4	6	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 Cromartie, M.	5	2	7	-	1-5	-	-	1-29	2	-	-
36 Armstrong, E.	2	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
53 Taylor, Mike	4	1	5	1-8	1-8	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
97 Kelly, Bren.	3	2	5	2-3	2.5-4	-	-	-	-	-	-
24 Johnson, Sh.	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11 Gilbert, David	1	2	3	-	.5-0	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 Herring, War.	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
43 Trotter, Mich.	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
51 Dippel, Tyler	2	0	2	2-13	2-13	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 Landisch, Der.	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
59 Trotter, Marc.	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
92 Muldoon, Pat	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21 Jean, Peniel	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
87 Hemer, Ethan	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
93 Keefer, Jake	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50 Harrison, Josh	1	0	1	-	1-4	-	-	-	-	-	-
64 Bak, Caleb	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Caputo, Mike	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 Smith, Devin	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	1-22	-	-	-
77 Gilbert, Br.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

RUSHING OFFENSE: The Huskers finished with 282 rushing yards, but didn't establish the run early, only carrying the ball seven times in the opening quarter. Taylor Martinez had 19 carries and 140 rushing yards, but none of the other backs went over 100 yards, nor really had the opportunity to as the offensive scheme did not really include the I-back after falling behind 14-0 right out of the gate. — Darren Ivy

C

PASSING OFFENSE: Again Nebraska's line struggled in the face of Wisconsin's rush and the absence of senior center Justin Jackson was very evident. Martinez had some good throws, but hit just a hair over 50 percent of his passes and had two passes picked off, even though they weren't completely his fault. Unfortunately NU's best pass play to Jamal Turner was called back due to the officials blowing an unnecessary roughness penalty on Kenny Bell's block on the play. — Darren Ivy

C

RUSHING DEFENSE: If we could give a Z on this one, we would as there is absolutely nothing positive to say about Nebraska's run defense, which gave up 539 yards and eight rushing touchdowns. The Badgers averaged 10.8 yards every time they carried the ball and three different backs broke runs of 57 yards or longer. Two Wisconsin backs went over 200 yards for the game and a third back was over 100 yards. In all three of Nebraska's losses this season, the rushing defense has failed Nebraska and given up huge chunks of yardage. *Missed tackles and poor positioning were just some of the problems.* — Darren Ivy

F

PASSING DEFENSE: Normally giving up just 101 yards through the air would earn a higher grade, but Nebraska's defensive backs were fooled on several trick passing plays, including a halfback pass that went for a score and a throw back pass to the quarterback that set up another score. Additionally, NU had no sacks on Wisconsin's quarterbacks and failed to put any pressure on him. Again, the inability to stop the run didn't put Wisconsin in too many passing positions either. — Darren Ivy

C

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS: The Nebraska returners didn't fumble the ball on punt returns, which was improvement, but again they also got absolutely nothing in return yardage either. Brett Maher made his only field goal attempt and all his extra points and had six touchbacks on kickoffs and averaged 40.8 yards per punt so he was adequate in the controlled environment. — Darren Ivy

B-

GameNotes

MARTINEZ RUN ONE OF FEW BRIGHT SPOTS IN BIG TEN GAME

One of the lone bright spots for Nebraska was the 76-yard touchdown scamper by Taylor Martinez midway through the first quarter. The senior quarterback faced a grim situation pre-snap, trailing 14-0 and dealing with a 3rd-and-11 from his own 24-yard line. Back-to-back penalties forced the Huskers into the long down-and-distance, but it mattered little after Martinez infused a bit of magic into the situation.

After finding his primary receivers blanketed downfield, Martinez reversed field and escaped a pair of Wisconsin rushers, moving backwards in the process. At one point in the mayhem, Martinez was inside his own 10-yard line, desperately trying to keep the play alive. It worked.

Martinez found a seam in the middle of the Wisconsin defense, and busted through. A couple of key blocks later, he was at midfield, needing only to outrun a pair of Badger defenders. The end result was a 76-yard touchdown run that looked like something from a Tommie Frazier "best of" video.

"Taylor was able to make some plays with his feet today and that was certainly an extraordinary one," said running backs coach Ron Brown.

"We thought we had a sack there and he made some people miss," said Wisconsin coach Bret Bielema.

In addition to the first quarter score, Martinez added another, an 11-yard keeper early in the third period that cut Wisconsin's lead to 49-17. Martinez finished the game with 140 yards on 19 carries and two touchdowns.

What most Husker fans will remember, however, were the turnovers that halted drives and led to scoring opportunities for Wisconsin. The tone was set on Nebraska's first possession, as Martinez's first pass attempt went off the hands of Kenny Bell and into the waiting arms of Wisconsin cornerback Marcus Cromartie, who returned the interception 29 yards for a score. Martinez was intercepted on the first drive of the second half, as well, which led to a 9-yard Montee Ball touchdown run.

"We have to be the type of team that can run the ball and use the play-action pass and we weren't able to do that except for a few times today," said Brown.

TOTAL COLLAPSE BY RUSH DEFENSE...AGAIN

For the third time this season, the Nebraska defense was thrashed by an opponent's rushing attack, to the tune of allowing at least 300 yards. Not surprisingly, the Huskers only three losses to date have come in those same contests. The other two situations, against UCLA and Ohio State, saw Nebraska allow 344 and 371 yards on the ground respectively.

Against Montee Ball and the dynamic Wisconsin running game, the end result was even worse. The Huskers offered little resistance, allowing Wisconsin



SENIORS BEN COTTON, TYLER REED AND TAYLOR MARTINEZ LOOK UP AT THE SCOREBOARD NEAR THE END OF THE GAME.

to roll up 290 rushing yards by halftime. Unfortunately for Nebraska fans, things got historically bad in the second half.

Overall, the Badgers churned up 539 yards on 50 carries in the game, with two players breaking the 200-yard barrier and a third breaking the 100-yard mark. The massive total marks the most rushing yards ever allowed by a Nebraska defense, breaking the record set in 1956 by Oklahoma, who finished with 506 yards in that contest.

"We let them out on the edge," said Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini. "We didn't execute. We didn't turn the ball back the way we were supposed to turn the ball back. Falls on me."

The "x factor" in Wisconsin's rushing attack was redshirt freshman Melvin Gordon, a 6-1, 205-pound tailback with speed to burn. Though he only carried the ball nine times, Gordon finished with 216 yards and a touchdown.

The other two who achieved the feat were Ball and fellow senior James White, arguably the best backup in the collegiate game. Ball broke the 200-yard mark on the day, carrying the ball 21 times for 202 yards, and three touchdowns. White was responsible for four touchdowns on the ground and one through the air, as his three-yard touchdown pass at the end of the first half increased Wisconsin's lead to 42-10.

"We didn't execute," said senior safety P.J. Smith. "We didn't tackle. Every time they ran in for a big play, two guys hit them. Just broke the tackle and went for six. So, no execution, no tackling, lack of communication."

TROUBLE UP FRONT

One of the bigger questions coming into the game was the identity of Nebraska's starting center.

Walk-on Mark Pelini initially got the starting nod, but was pulled later in the game for junior Cole Pensick.

Nebraska offensive line coach John Garrison said Nebraska wasn't able to handle the bull rush that Wisconsin had presented, and that Pensick was able to handle that better than Pelini.

"Inside, we felt like he could up better against the bull rush they were presenting, and that's why we went with Cole the majority of the time and got away from Mark," Garrison said. "He came in and did fine, but we had to play our best because of the situation."

Nebraska found itself in third-and-long in the second and third quarters and that allowed Wisconsin to dial up blitzes to get after Nebraska quarterback Taylor Martinez. Wisconsin lined up players off the line of scrimmage and were getting a head start in blitzing the quarterback. That put pressure on Pelini and Pensick to call out protection on disguised blitzes.

"We didn't do a great job on the defensive ends," Garrison said. "Our tackles struggled with some of the pressure off the edge, and the quarterback was step-

ping up into the pocket into a bull rush."

Nebraska was never really able to establish the run. Senior running back Rex Burkhead carried the ball just 11 times for 61 yards, and the majority of Nebraska's rushing yardage came from Martinez, who carried the ball 19 times for 140 yards and two touchdowns.

"We've been down before, but it put us in some situations that were tough," Garrison said. "We didn't do well on first down and we got into third and seven and that's not a good situation."

QUICK HITS

- Wisconsin's 42 first half points were the most they had scored in any half since 2010, when they scored 49 points in the first half against Northwestern in 2010. The Indianapolis Colts, who play their home games in Lucas Oil Stadium, had a previous high of 38 total points scored at the venue.

- Badger tailback Montee Ball has had a whale of a career in Madison, and his numbers against Nebraska back up that fact. In three career games against the Huskers, Ball has rushed for 446 yards and 10 touchdowns, while averaging 6.2 yards per carry.

- The Huskers' offense wasn't able to keep pace with record-setting Wisconsin, but they had their share of big plays in the contest. Nebraska finished with 17 plays of 10 yards or more, and racked up 477 total yards. Their 31 points marked the ninth time in 13 games that they reached the 30-point plateau.

- Senior linebacker Will Compton ends the regular season as the Huskers' leading tackler with 101 on the season, despite recording just three on Saturday night. Junior cornerback Andrew Green led the team with eight stops on the day, including one tackle for loss.

- The Badgers may want to consider moving Camp Randall Stadium to somewhere within the boundaries of the Hoosier State. In the three games they played in the state of Indiana in the 2012 season (Purdue, Indiana, Nebraska), they finished with a 3-0 record and won by a combined score of 170-59.

- Wisconsin's pass rush was as active as it has been all season, as they consistently pressured Taylor Martinez into rushing decisions. The Badgers recorded eight tackles for loss and finished with five sacks, led by Tyler Dippel and Brendan Kelly with two sacks a piece. "They were speed rushing on the outside and bull rushing the inside and we didn't adjust like we needed to," said running backs coach Ron Brown.

- Senior wide receiver Steven Osborne didn't play in Saturday's game.

WHAT WE LIKED

- Taylor Martinez's touchdown run in the first quarter. With the Huskers already trailing 14-0 with only two minutes gone, Martinez's run quickly stopped the Wisconsin momentum. Martinez ran almost 115 yards on the play to escape the Wisconsin defense and put points on the board.

- Wisconsin's gameplan. The Badgers completely dominated the first half, and not in the way most would have thought. With Baker Steinkuhler out of the game, the smart money would have been on Wisconsin running the ball down Nebraska's throat. Instead, the Badgers attacked the outside of Nebraska's defense, finding big yards and wide open space.

WHAT WE DIDN'T LIKE

- Nebraska's first defensive possession was reminiscent of the other meetings with the Badgers. Wisconsin used a variety of shifts and movement before the snap to confuse Nebraska and get its offensive players into space. The Badgers scored easily on an end around by Melvin Gordon, where he only had to beat Daimion Stafford and P.J. Smith to get into the end zone. As far as starts go for the defense, that one couldn't have been much worse.

- The safety play by Nebraska was awful in the first quarter. Both P.J. Smith and Daimion Stafford missed key tackles that led to big gains in the first quarter. Stafford missed one on Wisconsin's first touchdown, and Smith lost contain on the outside on a run by James White that put Wisconsin ahead 21-10 late in the first quarter. Nebraska was having to devote safeties to help against the run, but early in the game, the safeties were harming more than they were helping.

- Nebraska only had seven rushing attempts in the first quarter. Nebraska didn't seem to want to establish the run, and had 128 yards rushing in the first half, most of which came on Martinez's touchdown 76-yard run in the first quarter.

- With a chance to establish some momentum in the third quarter, Taylor Martinez made an ill-advised throw while escaping pressure that was intercepted, and set up Wisconsin's first touchdown of the second half.

- You never like to question a player's heart or toughness, but it sure seemed like Nebraska's defense had packed it in early in the third quarter. Montee Ball's fierce stiff arm on Ciente Evans before he went in for a touchdown was the final straw.

FINAL SCORE: WISCONSIN



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Tim Marlowe gets his foot down. The officials initially ruled it a catch, but reviewed it and overturned the call to incomplete. Marlowe and his NU teammates prepare to run onto the field before the game. Jamal Turner gets upended after making a catch. Senior linebacker Sean Fisher walks off the field with his head down. NU defenders Daimion Stafford (3) and Alonzo Whaley give chase, but can't stop Montee Ball from scoring one of his touchdowns. Ameer Abdullah congratulates Braylon Heard after his touchdown run.

Photos by Joel Bissell

NSIN 70, NEBRASKA 31



TAYLOR MARTINEZ LOOKS UP FIELD DURING "THE RUN" THAT RESULTED IN A 76-YARD TOUCHDOWN AGAINST WISCONSIN.



PHOTO BY JOEL BISSELL

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Georgia

Bulldogs look to bounce back from tough loss in SEC championship game.

by DOUG GRIFFITHS

Lets be honest, Georgia doesn't belong in the Capital One Bowl.

This is a team that at 11-2 was one defensive stop away from playing for the national championship and if college football didn't have its ridiculous rule of no more than two teams from the same conference can appear in BCS games in the same season, the Dawgs would be playing in a BCS game where they belong.

Georgia is ranked sixth in the country after suffering a tough 32-28 loss to No. 2 Alabama in the SEC Championship Game Dec. 1. The Dawgs' only other loss this season came at the hands of then-No. 6 South Carolina, 35-7, Oct. 6 in Columbia.

"Something's not right here," said Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban after the SEC Championship. "I don't know what people think of the SEC. ... I don't think it's fair to the Georgia players, coaches and their institution if they don't go to a BCS game."

Fair or not, the system is what it is and as a result, Georgia has to be satisfied with an appearance in the Capital One Bowl.

"I'm really excited for our team and especially our seniors with the opportunity to play in the Capital One Bowl, which is one of the premier January bowl games in the greatest of entertainment areas," Georgia coach Mark Richt said. "And to play a team with the history and tradition of Nebraska will be an exciting experience for our



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGIA SPORTS INFORMATION

Georgia quarterback Aaron Murray looks to throw the ball during a game earlier this season.

team and coaches, but also for our fans.

"Very few of our current players were on the 2008 team so this will be the first time most members of our team have the opportunity to play in Orlando and enjoy the fantastic attractions. The opportunity to play a top quality opponent like Nebraska will be a challenge we'll look forward to."

You can bet Richt and his Dawgs are looking forward to facing a Cornhusker team that allowed 70 points to Wisconsin in the Big Ten Championship Game.

Nebraska is about to find out that Georgia will be a whole different level of competition than the Badgers were.

LAST TIME OUT

No. 2 Alabama 32, No. 3

Georgia 28

Dec. 1, 2012

Atlanta, Ga.

Georgia came oh so close to winning a SEC Champi-

onship and playing for the national championship, but couldn't hold an 11-point second half lead as it lost a heart-breaker to defending national champion Alabama.

It was a see-saw affair that featured five lead changes.

The Bulldogs led 28-25 when freshman running back Todd Gurley scored on a 10-yard run with just under 13 minutes to play in regulation.

But AJ McCarron's 45-yard touchdown pass to Amari Cooper with 3:15 to go proved to be the difference.

"I told the guys I was disappointed, but I'm not disappointed in them," said Georgia coach Mark Richt afterwards. "They're warriors. We had a chance at the end.

"We just ran out of time."

Richt's Bulldogs drove deep into Alabama territory in the waning seconds, but quarterback Aaron Murray's pass was deflected at the line of scrimmage and a Bulldog, who wasn't the intended receiver caught it at the Ala-

THE VITALS

WHAT: Nebraska vs. #7 Georgia

WHEN/WHERE: at Noon CDT (1 p.m. ET local time in Orlando), Jan. 1 in Orlando, Fla. (Florida Citrus Bowl Stadium capacity 70,229)

TV: Televised live by ABC.

Radio: The Husker Sports Network broadcasts the action to 30 of the 34 state-wide radio markets. KFAB (1110 AM) serves as the Omaha affiliate and KLIN (1400 AM) serves as the Lincoln affiliate, while KRVN (880 AM) is a third affiliate that reaches around the state. Join Greg Sharpe (play-by-play), Matt Davison (color), Lane Grindle (sideline/post-game) and Jeff Culhane (Big Red Reaction Show) for all the action. The game can also be heard live on Huskers.com and SIRIUS Satellite Radio.

COACHES: Nebraska: Bo Pelini (49-19 overall, 12-4 in the Big Ten, five seasons). Georgia: Mark Richt (117-40, 12th season).

SERIES: Nebraska leads 1-0.

GEORGIA FAST FACTS

Location: Athens, Ga.

Enrollment: 34,816

All-Time Football Record: 761-403-54

SEC Championships (Last): 12 (2005)

National Championships: 5

All-Time Bowl Record: 26-18-3

Heisman Trophy Winners: 2 (Herschel Walker & Frank Sinkwich)

Consensus All-America Selections: 29

Lettermen Returning/Lost: 54/20

Starters Returning/Lost: 16/8 (counting specialists)

Offensive Formation: Pro-style attack

Defensive Formation: 3-4

DID YOU KNOW?

A win over Nebraska will give Georgia its 12th win of the season, which would put the 2012 Bulldogs into some elite company in school history. There have only been two Georgia teams in history to register at least 12 wins in a season. Vince Dooley's 1980 national champions went 12-0, Mark Richt's 2002 SEC championship squad finished 13-1.

2012 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Result
Sept. 1	Buffalo	W, 45-23
Sept. 8	@ Missouri	W, 41-20
Sept. 15	Florida Atlantic	W, 56-20
Sept. 22	Vanderbilt	W, 48-3
Sept. 29	Tennessee	W, 51-44
Oct. 6	@ South Carolina	L, 7-35
Oct. 20	@ Kentucky	W, 29-24
Oct. 27	Florida	W, 17-9
Nov. 3	Mississippi	W, 37-10
Nov. 10	@ Auburn	W, 38-0
Nov. 17	Georgia Southern	W, 45-14
Nov. 24	Georgia Tech	W, 42-10
Dec. 1	Alabama	L, 28-32
Jan. 1	Nebraska	



bama 5 and time expired.

Murray finished with 265 yards passing, completing 18-of-33 passes with one touchdown and an interception against one of the nation's best defenses.

Gurley ran for 122 yards on 23 carries and a pair of scores, not bad against the No. 1 run defense in America.

Alabama did finish with 512 yards of offense, including 350 yards rushing, and had a pair of running backs rush for over 100 yards. Eddie Lacy, the game's MVP, had 181 yards on 20 carries, including two TDs, and T.J. Yeldon added 153 yards on 25 attempts with a touchdown.

REMEMBER WHEN?

#14 Nebraska 45, Georgia 6

Dec. 20, 1969

El Paso, Texas

Before a crowd of 31,728, the nationally ranked Cornhuskers had little trouble with Georgia in the Sun Bowl.

Nebraska's Paul Rogers kicked four straight field goals, which ranged from 32 to 50 yards, in the first quarter, setting a new Big 8 record, and scored the game's first 38 points.

Coach Bob Devaney evened his Nebraska bowl record to 3-3 after leading the Cornhuskers to a 9-2 season, which included the Big 8 co-championship.

One interesting note from the game was almost all 7,000 Husker boosters swarmed the field to welcome their beloved Big Red before the opening kickoff.

In addition to Rogers, Nebraska's defense was also stellar. Led by All-Big 8 and All-America candidate Jerry Murtaugh, who won Outstanding Lineman honors, shut down the Georgia attack.

Rogers earned game MVP honors.

DID YOU KNOW

- The Bulldogs will be making their 48th bowl game appearance, good for the sixth most of any team in the country.

- Georgia is one of the most profitable programs in college football.

- When previewing the Georgia-Alabama SEC Championship Game, one Alabama website said, "The Georgia Bulldogs might just qualify as the most physically impressive college football team you've ever seen."

- The Bulldogs will be making their 12th straight bowl appearance.

- Georgia coach Mark Richt has a 48-8 nonconference record.

- The Bulldogs are 3-1-1 in previous trips to the Orlando Bowl, losing to Miami (Ohio) in the 1974 Tangerine Bowl, tying Florida State in the '84 Citrus Bowl, defeating Ohio

State in the '93 Florida Citrus Bowl, defeating Purdue in overtime in the '04 Capital One Bowl and defeating Michigan State in the '09 Capital One Bowl.

Getting It Done On The Ground

Georgia comes into its game against Nebraska with the SEC's fourth-leading rushing offense, averaging 184.2 yards per game.

The Dawgs have scored 31 rushing touchdowns this season to help their team's scoring offense average 37.2 points per game (third in the 14-team SEC).

The Cornhuskers' D will face a Georgia offense that totals 458.3 yards per game, good for third in the SEC.

Stout D?

Some of the Bulldog's defensive statistics wouldn't lead you to believe this is one of the nation's best teams, but Nebraska will discover that this Georgia team doesn't allow a whole lot of points.

Georgia defense ranks 17th nationally, allowing 18.77 points per game.

However, it is a defense that opponents have been able to have some success against in terms of moving up and down the field.

The Bulldogs rank 12th in the SEC in stopping the run as the opposition is gaining 177.8 yards per outing. Overall, their a team this is sixth in their conference in total defense, permitting 351.2 yards per game.

Other than keeping offenses off the scoreboard, Georgia's defense also is good against the pass, ranking second in the SEC, giving up 173.5 yards per game. But that number may not be overly inflated because teams have success running the football against this unit.

Freshmen One-Two Punch

The top two tailbacks listed on Georgia's depth chart are freshmen.

No doubt Nebraska will see plenty of Todd Gurley and Keith Marshall on New Year's Day.

The duo wears No. 3 and 4 respectively, have been nicknamed 'Gurshall' by senior receiver Tavarres King.

Gurley became the 12th Bulldog to rush for 1,000 yards in a season and the first since Knowshon Moreno in 2008. Only Gurley and some guy named Herschel Walker have tallied 1,000-yard seasons in their true freshman seasons at Georgia.

Gurley heads into the Capital One Bowl with 1,260 yards rushing, averaging 6.3 yards per carry, and has 16 touchdowns.

Marshall is gaining 6.6 yards every time he rushes the ball and has gained 723 yards on the ground and scored eight TDs this season.



Mark Richt

Resume: Has led the Bulldogs to two SEC titles (2002, '05) and five SEC Championship Game appearances (2002,

'03, '05, '11 and '12). The two-time SEC Coach of the Year is one of only seven men in NCAA Division I-A history to record 102 or more wins in his first 11 seasons as a head coach. In 12 seasons in Athens, his Bulldogs have amassed a 117-40 record, which makes him the fourth winningest active Division I-A coach.

KNOW YOUR FOE

Aaron Murray, QB, 6-1, 210, Jr.



Murray currently ranks second in the nation in passing efficiency with a QB rating of 172.36. He's completed 65.4 percent of his passes for 3,466 yards, 31 touchdowns and 8 interceptions.

Jarvis Jones, OLB, 6-3, 241, Jr.



Currently leads the NCAA in forced fumbles per game and tackles for loss per game and is one tackle for loss shy of David Pollack's single-season

school record. Jones has recorded 77 tackles this season, including 22.5 tackles for loss and 12.5 sacks, one interception, seven forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries. He has 26 career sacks in two seasons at Georgia.

Todd Gurley, TB, 6-1, 218, Fr.

Is having one of the best seasons any



freshmen is in the country.

Coming out of Tarboro, N.C., Gurley was a four-star prospect, who rushed for over 2,500 yards and 38 touchdowns in 15 games as a senior. With 75 yards rushing against NU, Gurley will have the second-most rushing yards ever by a Georgia rookie, trailing only Herschel Walker's 1,616 yards set in 1980.

2011 RESULTS

(10-4 overall, 7-1 in SEC)

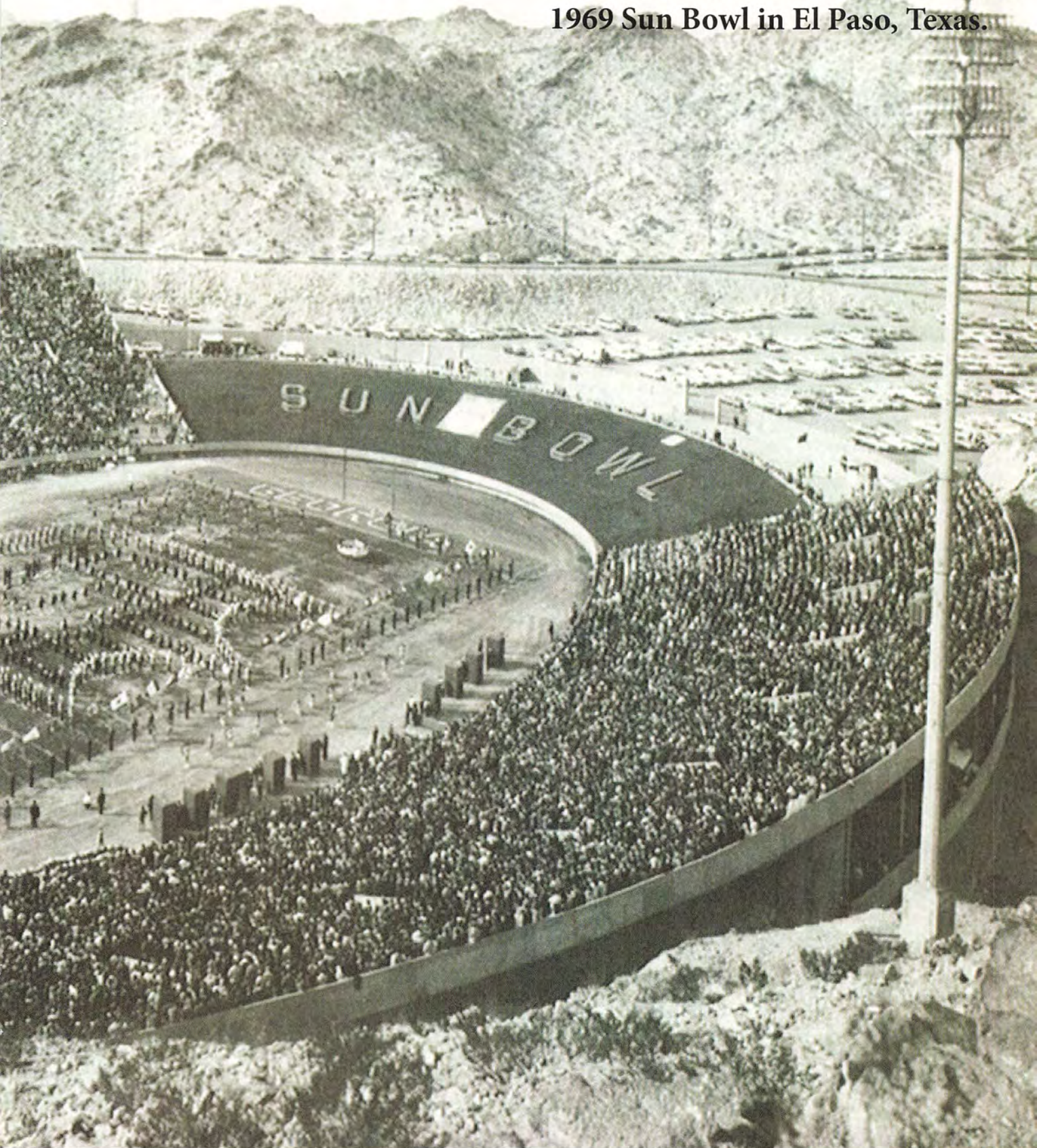
Date	Opponent	Result
Sept. 3	Boise State*	L, 21-35
Sept. 10	South Carolina	L, 42-45
Sept. 17	Coastal Carolina	W, 59-0
Sept. 24	@ Mississippi	W, 27-13
Oct. 1	Mississippi State	W, 24-10
Oct. 8	@ Tennessee	W, 20-12
Oct. 15	@ Vanderbilt	W, 33-28
Oct. 29	Florida!	W, 24-20
Nov. 5	New Mexico State	W, 63-16
Nov. 12	Auburn	W, 45-7
Nov. 19	Kentucky	W, 19-10
Nov. 26	@ Georgia Tech	W, 31-17
Dec. 3	LSU^	L, 10-42
Jan. 2	Michigan State#	L, 30-33 (3OT)
*Atlanta		
!Jacksonville, Fla.		
#Outback Bowl (Tampa)		



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUN BOWL

A Sunny Outcome

The last and only other time NU and Georgia met saw the Huskers come out victorious 45-6 in the 1969 Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas.



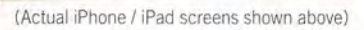


BULLDOGS

61	David Andrews	C	SO	6-2	295	Johns Creek, Ga.	66	Hunter Long	OG	SO	6-4	310	Memphis, Tenn.
31	Jon Bailey	CB	RS SO	6-0	200	Alpharetta, Ga.	43	Tommy Long	ILB	FR	6-2	220	Marietta, Ga.
58	Sterling Bailey	DE	RS FR	6-3	295	Gainesville, Ga.	83	Jack Loonam	TE	RS FR	6-0	216	Lexington, S.C.
32	Collin Barber	P	FR	6-2	200	Cartersville, Ga.	88	Ricky Lowe	DE	SR	6-8	242	Duluth, Ga.
10	Faton Bauta	QB	FR	6-3	220	West Palm Beach, Fla.	88	Arthur Lynch	TE	JR	6-5	258	Dartmouth, Mass.
79	Mark Beard	OG	SO	6-5	302	Adamsville, Ala.	24	Ken Malcome	TB	RS SO	6-0	224	Decatur, Ga.
93	Patrick Beless	PK	FR	5-9	155	Atlanta, Ga.	4	Keith Marshall	TB	FR	5-11	216	Raleigh, N.C.
82	Michael Bennett	SE	RS SO	6-3	204	Alpharetta, Ga.	14	Hutson Mason	QB	JR	6-3	206	Marietta, Ga.
7	Greg Bingham	QB	RS SO	6-4	209	Columbus, Ga.	47	Taylor Maxey	FB	RS FR	5-10	223	Statham, Ga.
37	Devin Bowman	CB	RS FR	6-0	180	Rossville, Ga.	46	A.J. McDonald	ILB	SO	6-0	230	Suwanee, Ga.
81	Taylor Bradberry	FLK	SR	6-3	200	Winder, Ga.	27	Rhett McGowan	SE	JR	6-0	190	Calhoun, Ga.
15	Marlon Brown	SE	SR	6-5	216	Memphis, Tenn.	70	Eddie McQuillen	OT	RS FR	6-8	300	Newnan, Ga.
39	Dominic Bryan	RB	FR	6-0	235	Germantown, Md.	26	Malcolm Mitchell	CB/SE	SO	6-1	192	Valdosta, Ga.
68	Chris Burnette	OG	JR	6-2	322	LaGrange, Ga.	77	Preston Mobley	OL	FR	6-3	300	Moultrie, Ga.
41	Brandon Burrows	ILB	RS SO	6-3	248	Marietta, Ga.	39	Corey Moore	SS	SO	6-2	214	Griffin, Ga.
28	Corey Campbell	FB	RS SO	5-10	215	Hephzibah, Ga.	92	Dexter Morant	OLB	RS SO	6-7	245	Manning, S.C.
4	Luis Capella	CB	JR	5-10	180	Augusta, Ga.	13	Marshall Morgan	PK	FR	6-3	201	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
41	Jared Chapple	TE	FR	6-4	218	Alpharetta, Ga.	27	Greg Mulkey	TE	RS FR	6-3	230	Fairmount, Ga.
19	Sanders Commings	CB	SR	6-2	216	Augusta, Ga.	11	Aaron Murray	QB	JR	6-1	210	Tampa, Fla.
31	Chris Conley	FLK	SO	6-3	205	Dallas, Ga.	11	Connor Norman	FS	RS SO	5-10	207	Duluth, Ga.
78	Watts Dantzler	OL	SO	6-7	320	Dalton, Ga.	9	Alec Ogletree	ILB	JR	6-3	232	Newnan, Ga.
91	Josh Dawson	OLB	FR	6-4	250	Tucker, Ga.	46	Alexander Ogletree	FB	JR	5-10	225	Newnan, Ga.
2	Sheldon Dawson	CB	FR	5-11	181	Memphis, Tenn.	23	Alex Parsons	TB	JR	5-10	191	Fayetteville, Ga.
23	Marc Deas	FS	RS SO	6-1	212	Kissimmee, Fla.	29	Jamal Payette	WR	RS FR	6-3	190	Cleveland, Ga.
76	Zach DeBell	OT	RS FR	6-6	293	Tarpon Springs, Fla.	95	Tyler Phillips	P	FR	5-11	175	Bogart, Ga.
89	James DeLoach	OLB	FR	6-3	270	Millen, Ga.	42	Dillard Pinkston	OLB	FR	6-3	220	Dallas, Texas
73	Caleb Drake	OG	RS FR	6-1	275	Hogansville, Ga.	94	Thomas Pritchard	PK	FR	5-10	160	Louisville, Ga.
47	Ray Drew	DE	SO	6-5	284	Thomasville, Ga.	73	Greg Pyke	OG	FR	6-6	327	Baltimore, Md.
91	Scott Eichler	PK	SR	5-11	182	Oakwood, Ga.	18	Bacarri Rambo	FS	SR	6-0	210	Donalsonville, Ga.
6	Michael Erdman	SE	RS SO	5-10	190	Merritt Island, Fla.	85	Geoff Rapp	TE	RS FR	6-3	230	Kennesaw, Ga.
97	Adam Erickson	P	RS SO	5-10	175	Athens, Ga.	20	Lucas Redd	FS	RS SO	6-1	209	Jefferson, Ga.
23	James Eunice	WR	SO	6-0	175	Valdosta, Ga.	55	Ben Reynolds	C	JR	6-2	255	Bainbridge, Ga.
95	Reuben Faloughi	OLB	JR	6-5	253	Martinez, Ga.	45	Christian Robinson	ILB	SR	6-2	235	Norcross, Ga.
80	Ty Flournoy-Smith	TE	FR	6-3	237	Moultrie, Ga.	87	Jay Rome	TE	RS FR	6-6	265	Valdosta, Ga.
69	Ty Frix	SN	SR	6-0	214	Calhoun, Ga.	42	Dustin Royston	FB	JR	5-11	237	Royston, Ga.
72	Kenarious Gates	OT	JR	6-5	318	Grantville, Ga.	7	Blake Sailors	CB	JR	5-11	187	Athens, Ga.
60	Wright Gazaway	SN	RS FR	6-0	243	Buford, Ga.	22	Richard Samuel	IV TB	SR	6-2	236	Richardsville, Ga.
99	Kwame Geathers	N	JR	6-6	355	Georgetown, S.C.	86	Justin Scott-Wesley	FLK	RS FR	5-11	217	Camilla, Ga.
28	Devin Gillespie	S	FR	5-10	195	Grayson, Ga.	1	Brandon Smith	CB	SR	5-11	182	Atlanta, Ga.
35	Michael Gilliard	ILB	SR	6-2	230	Valdosta, Ga.	56	Garrison Smith	DE	JR	6-3	297	Atlanta, Ga.
3	Todd Gurley	RB	FR	6-1	218	Tarboro, N.C.	32	Matt Staggs	ILB	FR	6-3	225	Salt Lake City, Utah
43	Merritt Hall	FB	RS FR	5-11	238	Alpharetta, Ga.	25	Jake Star	WR	FR	6-5	220	Lawrenceville, Ga.
20	Brandon Harton	TB	JR	5-6	175	Reidsville, Ga.	44	T.J. Stripling	OLB	JR	6-6	235	Decatur, Ga.
25	Josh Harvey-Clemons	S	FR	6-5	207	Valdosta, Ga.	5	Damian Swann	DB	SO	5-11	189	Atlanta, Ga.
12	Austin Herod	SS	JR	5-10	183	Woodstock, Ga.	94	Jonathan Taylor	DL	FR	6-4	335	Millen, Ga.
52	Amarlo Herrera	ILB	SO	6-2	245	College Park, Ga.	71	John Theus	OT	FR	6-6	309	Jacksonville, Fla.
48	Quayvon Hicks	FB	FR	6-2	262	Blackshear, Ga.	49	Nathan Theus	SN	RS FR	6-3	249	Jacksonville, Fla.
75	Kolton Houston	OT	RS SO	6-5	280	Buford, Ga.	96	Mike Thornton	N	RS SO	6-1	302	Stone Mountain, Ga.
90	Elhan Jackson	P	RS FR	5-11	178	Sandersville, Ga.	8	Blake Tibbs	FLK	FR	6-2	175	Lithonia, Ga.
6	John Jenkins	N	SR	6-3	358	Meriden, Conn.	37	Kenneth Towns	WR	FR	6-3	202	Albany, Ga.
59	Jordan Jenkins	OLB	FR	6-3	257	Hamilton, Ga.	89	Cole Trolinger	TE	FR	6-5	230	Newnan, Ga.
38	Clay Johnson	WR	FR	6-1	170	Calhoun, Ga.	33	Chase Vasser	OLB	JR	6-3	231	Gainesville, Ga.
98	Cody Johnson	P	RS SO	6-1	202	Marietta, Ga.	38	Kosta Vavlas	ILB	RS SO	6-0	219	Tarpon Springs, Fla.
93	Aby Jones	DE	SR	6-3	308	Warner Robins, Ga.	63	Xavier Ward	OT	RS FR	6-7	293	Moultrie, Ga.
29	Jarvis Jones	OLB	JR	6-3	241	Columbus, Ga.	83	Cornelius Washington	OLB	SR	6-4	268	Hephzibah, Ga.
8	Jesse Jones	S	RS FR	6-0	190	Habersham, Ga.	2	Parker Welch	QB	RS SO	6-3	199	Jesup, Ga.
33	Kyle Karempelis	TB	SO	5-9	183	Roswell, Ga.	84	Hugh Williams	TE	RS SO	6-5	241	Atlanta, Ga.
12	Tavarres King	FLK	SR	6-1	200	Mount Airy, Ga.	36	Shawn Williams	SS	SR	6-1	217	Damascus, Ga.
53	Clint Kirk	DE	JR	6-3	275	Buford, Ga.	44	Drew Wilson	TE	JR	6-2	205	Tignall, Ga.
64	Dallas Lee	OG	JR	6-4	300	Buford, Ga.	51	Ramik Wilson	LB	SO	6-2	224	Tampa, Fla.
16	Christian LeMay	QB	RS FR	6-2	201	Matthews, N.C.	17	Rantavious Wooten	FLK	JR	5-10	179	Belle Glade, Fla.
99	Jamie Lindley	PK	SR	5-11	183	Savannah, Ga.	9	Curtis Wyatt	WR	RS SO	6-1	200	Locust Grove, Ga.
74	Austin Long	OT	JR	6-5	324	Memphis, Tenn.	35	Chris Young	FB	JR	6-1	224	Hinesville, Ga.

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IN THE RedZone



The Changing Landscape of Nebraska's Athletic Facilities

STORY BY DOUG GRIFFITHS | PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEBRASKA, NORTHWESTERN, MICHIGAN, WISCONSIN SPORTS INFORMATION

ABOVE IS A RENDERING OF WHAT THE EAST STADIUM EXPANSION PROJECT WILL LOOK LIKE WHEN IT IS COMPLETED. BELOW IS A RENDERING OF WHAT THE NEW PINNACLE BANK ARENA WILL LOOK LIKE.



Nebraska's facilities have undergone quite the transformation over the past couple decades, something long overdue for an athletic program as high profile and successful as the Cornhuskers.

Under athletic director Tom Osborne's watchful eye, though, Nebraska's facilities have catapulted from somewhat archaic to some of the most impressive in the nation.

Thanks to Osborne and his department's efforts Nebraska can now boast that every major athletic program at the school is playing or soon will be playing in new or renovated facilities.

That's a fact that hasn't gone unnoticed among Nebraska brass.

"If you look at us across the board, we've got to be in the top five for what we provide for every sport," said John Ingram, Nebraska's associate athletic director for capital planning and construction. "Some sports might have

something fantastic for just one sport, but than their other sports are in really old facilities.”

That’s certainly not the case at Nebraska.

In two decades of service to the university, Ingram has played a role in the planning, design and construction of \$300 million in projects.

He was key in the concept, design, negotiation and construction phases of the \$50 million Memorial Stadium Improvement Project that included the construction of the Osborne Athletic Complex, which opened in 2006.

The latest undertaking for Ingram and the Nebraska athletic department is the East Stadium project in Memorial Stadium. It will add an additional 6,000 seats and bring its capacity close to 90,000.

And football isn’t the only sport at NU benefitting from facility renovation projects. Take a look:

- All 23 Nebraska varsity sports received a boost from the \$8.7 million Student Life Complex, which opened in 2010. It’s the state-of-the-art “home away from home” for 600 Husker student-athletes to learn and study.

- There’s the \$29.5 million Haymarket Park baseball and softball complex. The training facility includes space for infield play, batting cages and pitching tunnels. It was completed in 2011.

- The \$18.7 million Hendricks Training Complex was dedicated in the fall of 2011. It benefits men’s and women’s basketball along with wrestling thanks to its practice courts, new locker rooms, strength and conditioning and athletic medicine areas.

- Speaking of the basketball teams, there is the \$344 million Pinnacle Bank Arena, formerly the West Haymarket Arena, which will be the new home of Nebraska’s hoops teams. It will have an initial seating capacity of 16,500 and is slated to be completed in September of 2013.

- Construction started this year on the Devaney Center Improvements

ESPN RANKS BIG TEN FACILITIES

This past summer, ESPN.com ranked Big Ten facilities based on several criteria including stadium, weight rooms, indoor practice fields and outdoor practice fields. Following is a look at how the 12 schools stacked up.

1. Ohio State
2. **NEBRASKA**
3. Michigan
4. Penn State
5. Michigan State
6. Iowa
7. Illinois
8. Indiana
9. Minnesota
10. Purdue
11. Wisconsin
12. Northwestern

project, which has a price tag of \$20.5 million. That will include a 10,000 square foot grand entrance addition on the south side, interior renovation of the arena level, concourse level and arena interior. Premium seating will be added with the addition of suites and a new premium seating hospitality room. A new volleyball locker room and offices will be constructed and the volleyball playing surface will be renovated. The renovated Devaney Center will hold from 6,000-9,000 fans.

Perhaps the most popular athletic complex facelift is the ongoing East Stadium Expansion project, estimated to cost \$63.5 million. It is expected to be finished in August 2013. That expansion will include 38 suites, which will include 2,000 seats. The new 6,000 or so seats overall will include dedicated restroom and concession areas as well as a new grand lobby and expanded concourse.

One of the biggest benefits that will come from the stadium expansion project will be the simple fact that more Nebraska fans will get to experience game day in Memorial Stadium than ever before.

“Recruiting is obviously very important and so is taking care of our fans,” Ingram pointed out. “We’ve had a long history of sellouts. To bring some more fans into the stadium to help them also participate in the longest sellout streak in the history of the NCAA is exciting.”

Needless to say, Cornhusker coach Bo Pelini is excited to see all the changes going on with Nebraska’s athletic complexes, especially the commitment the university continues to make towards his football program.

“We’ve always tried to be out front as far as facilities are concerned,” Pelini said. “We’re in good shape economically at the University and in the athletic department.”

“We’ve been able to update our facilities without going overboard. I don’t think we’ve ever gone overboard. You look at it and see our student-athletes are well provided for here and we have first-class facilities and a nice setup.”

These first-class facilities can be found throughout the nation, but some of these Taj Mahals, if you will, call the Big Ten home.

Ohio State is widely considered to have some of the nation’s finest athletic facilities and easily ranks near or at the top of the Big Ten.

It’s hard to top massive Ohio Stadium and the school’s stand-alone, football-only facility, the Woody Hayes Athletic Center.

As you would expect, Michigan’s athletic complexes are eye-popping venues, too.

Michigan Stadium was renovated from 2007-2010 at a cost of \$226 million. To put that figure in perspective consider this: Michigan Stadium was built in 1927 for a total of \$950,000.

BIG FACILITY MAKEOVERS

Below Huskers Illustrated takes an in-depth look at what upgrades Big Ten schools have made in the 21st century to their football complexes.

ILLINOIS

Illinois began its \$100 million renovation project to Memorial Stadium after the 2006 season. The stadium's concourse areas were improved with better concession and restroom facilities, plus a large press box was constructed and luxury suite area was added. It was completed prior to the 2008 season.

INDIANA

In August 2009, IU completed its Memorial Stadium expansion project, which included enclosing the north end zone and demolition of the north end zone bleachers. That project included a 25,000 square foot weight/training room, a Hall of Fame and expanded seating for football, raising the stadium's capacity to 52,692. The expansion is part of Indiana's \$55 million overall expansion of its athletic facilities. In July 2009, the school also invested \$3 million for additional renovations to the stadium, including a new "retro" north end zone scoreboard, a "Knothole Park" kids area in the south end zone, renovated concession stands and upgrades to the press box.

IOWA

Iowa recently completed first of two phase \$55 million facility upgrade for the football program.

Phase I includes a new 102,000 square foot indoor football practice facility and adjacent outdoor practice fields. Phase II, which is supposed to be completed in 2014, calls for new locker rooms, strength and conditioning center, medical facility and coaches' offices among other things.

MICHIGAN

Michigan has spent massive amounts of money expanding Michigan Stadium and renovating Crisler Center, the new name for the home of the Wolverine basketball teams (former Crisler Arena).

In 2010, Michigan Stadium's \$226 million renovation project was completed. Among other things it included a new press box, 83 luxury boxes and 3,200 club seats. The \$95.2 million Crisler Center renovation project was completed ahead of schedule as it was unveiled for this season. The Wolverine program is home to what may be the best indoor practice facility in the country in the Al Glick Field House and the football complex will be even more impressive when Schembechler Hall is renovated soon for \$9 million. Michigan is also installing a \$2.8 million marquee that will welcome guests to events at Michigan Stadium and Crisler Center.

MICHIGAN STATE

Michigan State is on the verge of embarking

on an \$18 million renovation on the north side of Spartan Stadium as upgrades to locker rooms, restrooms, concessions, a recruiting room and media center are all in the plans. The completion date will be determined by how fast the funds can be raised, as Michigan State's athletic department is self-sufficient. The hope is that it could be completed in a couple of years. The announcement of this latest project comes after the school just completed a \$10 million installation of video boards that made their debut for the Boise State game in August. The Southern monitor is the fifth largest in the country; large enough to fit a basketball court on it. The Skandalaris Football Center is a sight to behold.

MINNESOTA

Minnesota is home to the Big Ten's newest football facility. Ground was broken on TCF Bank Stadium in September of 2006 and about three years later the \$303.3 million stadium was completed.

Next up for Minnesota will be to bring its everyday facilities up to par.

NEBRASKA

Big Ten coaches and officials rave about Nebraska's football facilities. The huge weight room is the highlight, but the locker room, meeting rooms and coaches' offices are as good as you'll find anywhere.

A major renovation project in 1999 added 42 luxury suites to Memorial Stadium. In 2004, construction began to renovate and expand the north end zone stands. The stadium now has an additional 13 luxury boxes above the north stands called the "Skyline Suites," and an additional 6,000 seats, increasing capacity to 81,067. In 2010, the Board of Regents approved an expansion project that will cost an estimated \$65 million, increasing the stadium's capacity to more than 87,000.

NORTHWESTERN

Earlier this season, Northwestern made the biggest commitment it ever has to its football program when school officials approved a plan to build a multi-purpose facility on the shores of Lake Michigan that will cost \$225 million. Included in the project includes an indoor practice facility, weight room and meeting rooms. It could be completed as early as 2014.

OHIO STATE

Renovations will get underway to Ohio Stadium in just a few weeks. In the fall of 2001, a three-year renovation to Ohio Stadium was completed.

The university spent \$200 million on that project to build a new press box, add additional seating as well as install 81 luxury suites and

2,500 club seats. In March 2012 Ohio State announced a \$7 million renovation to the scoreboard installed during the 2000-01 renovation. That project was finished for this year's season opener.

PENN STATE

An \$84 million major construction project took place in 2001 to raise Beaver Stadium's capacity to 106,572. An upper deck was added to the south end of the stadium. Penn State's Lasch Building, a football-only facility, is first class with a redone weight room and huge lounge. For this season, the athletic department upgraded the north and south video boards.

PURDUE

In the 21st century, Purdue renovated its Ross-Ade Stadium to the tune of \$70 million. Last year the school put the finishing touches on Mackey Arena, the place the Boilermaker basketball teams call home. The price tag for that endeavor was \$100 million as it included an indoor practice facility along with expanded concourses, new lounge areas, locker rooms and much more. In May of this year, Purdue athletic director Morgan Burke announced a \$2 million commitment that was received to support Purdue football.

Burke said the money from that donor will be used to support the football program "in some shape or form." Ross-Ade's next big project will be removal of the south end zone bleachers, which would lower capacity from 62,500 to 56,500. Burke said the lower attendance figure fits the school better in today's marketplace. Concrete issues in the southeast and southwest corners need to be addressed, too, and the stadium is in need of a new video board. To do that upgrade, plus dress up the area, will cost about \$5 million. Expect Purdue to address those issues sooner rather than later.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin, which installed new FieldTurf in Camp Randall Stadium over the summer, has launched a three-phase project to upgrade its stadium at a cost of \$76.8 million. A Student Athlete Performance Center is part of that plan, which calls for a three-story academic and strength training center on the north end of the stadium. The project will also renovate the lower level of the McClain Athletic Facility, an indoor training space built in 1986 on the northeast side of Camp Randall. Other upgrades included in the project include renovated and expanded team football suite, including player and coach locker rooms, team lounge, equipment room and hot/cold recovery pools as well as other things. All construction will be finished by January 2014.



Northwestern's football program will get a gigantic boost when this \$225 million multi-purpose facility on the shores of Lake Michigan is completed possibly as early as 2014.



This is the view basketball fans will have as they enter Michigan's newly renovated Crisler Center, the refurbished basketball home of the Wolverines. The \$95.2 million project was just finished for the 2012-13 season.



Wisconsin's Camp Randall Stadium is currently undergoing \$76.8 million in renovations, which includes a three-story academic and strength training center on the north end of the stadium.

That gigantic renovation project included the addition of a new press box, 83 luxury boxes and 3,200 clubs seats.

The school also put the finishing touches on a massive renovation to the Crisler Center, which houses Crisler Arena, where the Wolverine basketball teams play their home games. Michigan spent \$95.2 million on that project that added a new scoreboard along with the construction of an athletic facility in between the arena and Michigan Stadium. In addition, the concourse was expanded, a new grand entrance was built and new boxes were built to enhance basketball fans' experience.

After Wisconsin spent \$109.5 million to expand Camp Randall Stadium from 76,129 to 80,321, it has now embarked on an \$86 million campaign that will give the stadium quite a facelift that includes a three-story academic and strength training center along with an athletic training and sports medicine center among other things.

Wisconsin's improvements will take its current 7,824 square foot weight room and give the program a new 17,000 square foot weight room. By comparison, Nebraska's weight room is 18,700 square feet and Penn State's is 13,000.

Don't think just perennial powerhouses are investing in football facilities and athletic complexes. They're not the only ones in this ongoing arms race.

In September, Northwestern officials okayed a staggering \$225 million multi-purpose facility on the shores of Lake Michigan that will benefit the football program as well as other sports teams at the school and the general student population as well.

Wildcat coach Pat Fitzgerald called the commitment by his alma mater a "game-changer."

"This is going to be transformational," he said. "It allows our student-athletes the opportunity to be in a world-class facility that's unmatched anywhere in college athletics."

Fitzgerald pointed out that an ESPN.com article last summer ranked Big Ten football facilities and had Northwestern dead last.

"We're going to go from worst to first," Fitzgerald said. "We've been pretty good so far. Hopefully, this will

take us to great.”

That same article ranked Nebraska's facilities second best in the Big Ten, trailing only Ohio State.

Nebraska has recently poured millions into projects to enhance its athletic facilities, but as Osborne points out, the university was in a position to tackle such massive undertakings because of the foundation that so many people laid for decades to make the university's athletic department one of the strongest in the nation from top to bottom.

“People look at facilities and think you've got to have this building or that building, but it's really the people that make it work,” Osborne said. “We had some pretty good things happening here without extravagant facilities for a long time. Most of that had to do with culture.”

Keeping Up With The Jones

One trip to any campus in the Big Ten and you'll see some of the most impressive sports facilities you'll find nationwide.

Big Ten schools have spent, are spending or are planning to spend millions to bring their athletic programs up to speed and/or keep them one step ahead of the competition.

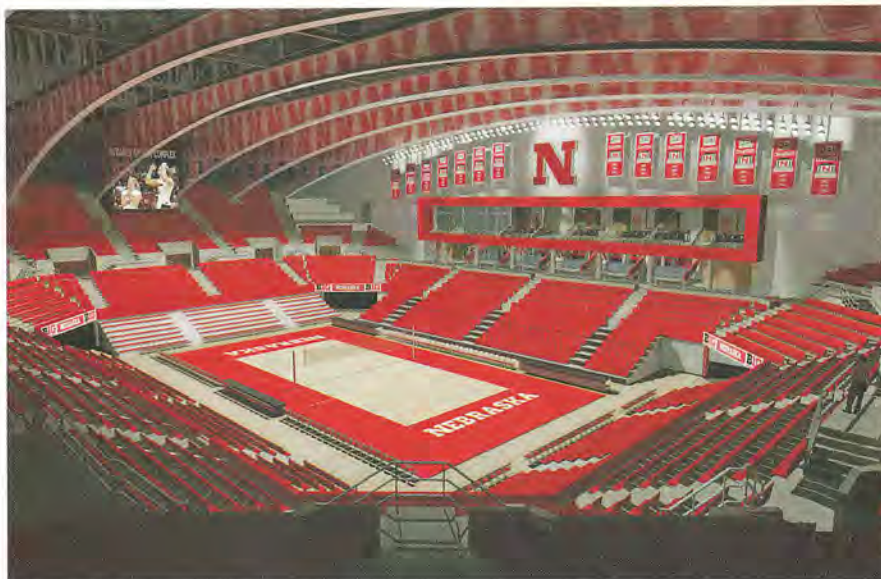
From stadium expansion projects that include suites that professional sports teams would envy to upgraded locker room facilities with all the amenities, Big Ten schools don't mind one iota spending millions to improve their facilities.

Michigan State doesn't just battle instate rival Michigan on the gridiron. It seems to be trying to one up its Big Ten brethren when it comes to video boards of all things.

This season Michigan State proudly unveiled its \$10 million of new video boards in Spartan Stadium. The boards became a priority after the school had one of the smallest video screens of all BCS schools.

Michigan State's project followed Michigan's installation of two 4,000 square foot scoreboards at either end of Michigan Stadium. Ohio State also recently upgraded its scoreboard, too.

Then there's Iowa. That school is in the midst of a \$55 million facility up-



The Bob Devaney Sports Center will undergo renovations to become the volleyball-only facility that is shown above. The volleyball team recently played its final match in the NU Coliseum during the NCAA Tournament.

grade for the football program. It is a project that has multiple phases.

Phase I included a new 102,000 square foot indoor football practice facility and adjacent outdoor practice fields. It's a facility that will give Iowa everything it needs to compete and it replaced what was known as the “Bubble,” a 27-year-old indoor facility that was deflated in April. The Hawkeyes moved into this facility in August.

“It's something our players will benefit from in the short term and it's something that's very, very important to our program,” Ferentz said.

Phase II of Iowa's project includes several bells and whistles like new locker, equipment and meeting rooms, strength and conditioning center, medical facility and coaches' offices. Its targeted completion date is 2014.

“You look outside and what we're doing facility-wise,” Ferentz said. “We were probably five years behind, quite frankly. Maybe we fell asleep at the wheel with that one.”

Facilities Vital In Recruiting

Facilities impact recruiting in more ways than the general public will ever know.

What may seem to carry very little significance to someone in their 40s, can be a deal maker or breaker to prospects in their teens.

Recruits love to compare what School A has compared to School B

and vice versa.

Somewhat miraculously Wisconsin has continued winning and going to bowl games on an annual basis despite having antiquated athletic facilities.

That's changing, though, as Wisconsin is investing to improve its football facilities.

The ongoing renovation project to Camp Randall Stadium is long overdue and a sight for sore eyes Badger coach Bret Bielema says.

“The arms race, the facilities race, whatever you want to say in the world of college football is very important when it comes to recruiting,” he said.

“We put a lot of money into the University of Wisconsin. We put \$120 million into the stadium nine years ago. When Coach (Barry) Alvarez first came here, they put a lot of money into the indoor practice facility and the weight room. We had been to back-to-back Rose Bowls and (won) back-to-back Big Ten Championships and we had the smallest locker room facility, smallest weight room facility and the smallest conditioning facility in our conference. That kind of blew some people away, mainly our biggest supporters.

“With that being said, I'm not always a big believer in the biggest and the best. I just want something that's functional. We'll be very functional. We have an unbelievable facility underway here. It's made a huge differ-

ence in recruiting already and we've had a huge jump in our recruiting class two years from now as well as the one we're working on. It's kind of a fun and exciting time because it's definitely going to make everybody better."

Michigan coach Brady Hoke knows very well the importance facilities can have in recruiting.

"That's a never-ending battle," he said. "Facilities are a part of it. We're very fortunate with Michigan Stadium and the 110,000-plus that come watch us play. I think our indoor facilities and practice fields and training room are second to none, but the academics and the resource center here on campus and all those things are plusses, but at the end of the day it does come down to people because this is a profession that is people driven as far as trust, honesty and all those things that go along with the type of people you want to surround yourself with."

"It's a big part of it. I'm not saying it's not, but I've never seen a guy go talk to a weight room or a stadium when problems arise."

It's no accident that Michigan, Ohio State, along with Alabama, Texas and Florida among others often find themselves at the top of the recruiting class rankings come February.

"There are a lot of good facilities throughout the country so at the end of the day it's the people aspect of it to me with all things equal that makes the difference with most players," Pelini said.

With that said, Pelini knows how much clout facilities can have in the recruiting process.

"It's obvious that it's part of the deal," Pelini said. "You get them on campus and they want to make sure you have good facilities."

Where The Money Comes From

Big Ten schools rely on a variety of sources to cover the expenses of these grand facility upgrades.

Schools have massive fundraising campaigns, take football revenues and rely on some Big Ten Network proceeds to cover costs.

Even that though may not be enough, forcing schools to take out loans.

For example, Iowa has a fundraising goal of \$35 million and currently has



Pictured above is the inside rendering of what the new Pinnacle Bank Arena will look like on the inside once it is completed.

raised \$20 million for its project. The other \$20 million comes from a short-term loan paid from department funds.

Schools will also sell the naming rights to the building themselves all the way down to the players' lockers. For example, for \$10 million you can have your name on Iowa's Football Performance Center or for \$5 million the Iowa Indoor Practice Facility can carry your name.

Wisconsin is paying for its \$86 million facelift with money generated by the athletic department. No taxpayer dollars or student fees are going toward the project.

Illinois completed its \$100 million renovation project to Memorial Stadium in 2008 and paid for it in large part through the pre-sales of new luxury seating opportunities. The annual cash flow from the luxury seating has provided the resources necessary to pay down the debt on then-newly issued 30-year bonds. In addition, a private capital campaign was launched, featuring naming opportunities within the renovated stadium. No state or tuition assessments were used to finance the project.

Minnesota's TCF Bank Stadium opened in 2009 after it was built for more than \$300 million. The university is paying for 52 percent of that cost with the state of Minnesota picking up the remaining 48 percent.

The university achieved its goal of \$86 million in private fund raising, while the remainder of the university's

portion is being generated from a \$12.50 per semester student fee and game day parking revenue.

Spending such inordinate amounts of money on these facilities simply comes with the territory says Hoke.

"I think it's part of the landscape," Hoke said, "but it is staggering there's no question about it."

What The Future Holds

It's hard to imagine where the arms race goes from here. You can expect schools to continue to pour millions into their athletic complexes, knowing you have to spend money to make money.

Despite spending tens of millions, Michigan isn't close to being done for a while when it comes to addressing facility needs.

Earlier this year, Michigan athletic director Dave Brandon said a master plan has been drafted that calls for renovations to nearly every athletic facility on campus over the next seven to 10 years.

When it comes to brining its facilities into the 21st century, Nebraska has come a long way in a very short period of time.

However, there's still work to be done.

A new natatorium for swimming is being considered as are facility upgrades for tennis and golf.

"There are a few left that we need to take care of," Ingram said.

The arms race never ends does it?

Around THE Horn

| BRIAN ETHRIDGE

Around the Horn is a weekly feature exclusive to *Huskers Illustrated*. In every issue of the magazine we'll take a close look at the recent happenings in Nebraska athletics beyond football and volleyball.

BOWLING

The Cornhuskers bowling team was excited to finish fifth out of 16 teams at the Track Kat Klack on Dec. 2. At the end of the three-day event, Nebraska finished 10-3 overall. Sophomore Elise Bolton led the Huskers with an average score of 204.6 per game. Her performance ranked 14th out of 100 bowlers. Senior Kristi Mickelson finished 16th overall with an average score of 203.2 per game.

SOFTBALL

Head coach Rhonda Revelle announced that Nebraska natives Charlotte Sjulín and Kat Woolman will join the softball team next fall. Sjulín currently attends Concordia High School. Woolman is a four year star from Lincoln Pius X High School.

SWIMMING & DIVING

The team of Husker swimmers and divers finished in second place at the Hawkeye Invitational on Dec. 3. Nebraska finished only behind Michigan, but came out ahead of Iowa and Northwestern.

The swimming and diving team doesn't return to action until January 19 when they host San Diego State at the Devaney Natatorium.

WOMEN'S RIFLE

The sixth-ranked Nebraska rifle team came up short against No. 7 Air Force on Saturday, falling by a score of 4,650-4,622. The Huskers (8-3, 2-1 GARC) scored their lowest output of the season against the Falcons (10-4) in the loss.

Senior Janine Dutton led NU's declared team competitors in both disciplines, firing a 581 in smallbore and a 586 in air rifle. Freshman Magdalena Mical posted a career-best 589 in air rifle to lead all Husker athletes on the day.

Friday's match concluded Nebraska's fall season, but the Huskers will have a chance for redemption against the Falcons in their opening match of 2013. Nebraska and Air Force will square off on Jan. 12 at the NU Rifle Range. The match is slated for an 8 a.m. start, with free live stats available at Huskers.com.

WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS

The Nebraska women's gymnastics team gained valuable preseason competition experience in its intrasquad on Friday, performing in front of nearly

300 fans at Mabel Lee Hall. The defending Big Ten champion Huskers worked on vault, bars, beam and floor en route to a team score of 195.95.

"I think today, we accomplished what we needed to accomplish," Head Coach Dan Kendig said. "For the most part, the team did a really good job. We had some midseason-type performances. We also have some things we need to work on; some polishing up and some showmanship things. I think the girls had fun doing it, and I hope that showed."

The Huskers worked six competitors in all-around competition: Jordyn Beck, DeZiel, Giblin, Lauer, Ariel Martin and Wong. Friday night also marked a return to competition for senior and All-American Cassandra Nathe, who has battled back from two seasons of injuries to position herself as one of Nebraska's top performers on bars and beam this season.

The Huskers began the evening on vault, posting a score of 49.25 overall. The event is expected to be one of NU's deepest and strongest events this season. The Big Red saw several strong individual performances, including a big vault from second-team All-American Jessie DeZiel. First-team All-American Janelle

Giblin and true freshman Hollie Blanske also put up solid performances for the Huskers.

NU moved to bars and beam next, running the events in conjunction with one another. NU tallied a score of 48.95 on bars, paced by excellent performances from second-team All-American Janelle Giblin and sophomore Jennifer Lauer on bars. On beam, NU put up a team score of 49.20. The Huskers were led by returning first-team All-American Emily Wong and Blanske.

Nebraska finished the evening on floor exercise, picking up a score of 48.55. Several Huskers will be in contention for spots in the floor lineup this season, and Friday night gave those team members some solid looks. Returning first-team All-American DeZiel turned in a midseason-level performance, while Wong also had an excellent showing on the night.

The Huskers will open their regular season on Saturday, Jan. 12 at 3 p.m. CST on the road against the Michigan Wolverines. NU's first home meet of the season is set for Saturday, Jan. 19, when the Big Red will host Michigan State at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. That meet is slated for a 6 p.m.

Women's Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/SCORE
OCT. 29	PITT STATE (EXHIB.)	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 78-34
NOV. 4	UNK (EXHIB.)	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 68-38
NOV. 9	NORTH CAROLINA A&T	DEVANEY CENTER	W 68-50
NOV. 11	TEMPLE	DEVANEY CENTER	W 64-39
NOV. 16	NORTHERN ARIZONA	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 77-55
NOV. 18	SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	AT BROOKINGS S.D.	L, 60-55
NOV. 20	SAM HOUSTON STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 85-72
ACC/BIG TEN CHALLENGE			
NOV. 28	MARYLAND	DEVANEY CENTER	L, 90-71
DEC. 1	IDAHO STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 60-51
DEC. 5	CREIGHTON	AT OMAHA (SOKOL)	L, 66-57
DEC. 8	FLORIDA STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	2:05 P.M.
DEC. 16	SOUTH FLORIDA	AT TAMPA, FLA.	1 P.M.
DEC. 20	ORAL ROBERTS	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 P.M.
DEC. 29	GRAMBLING STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 P.M.
JAN. 2	WISCONSIN*	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 P.M.
JAN. 5	PURDUE*	DEVANEY CENTER	1 P.M.
JAN. 2	OHIO STATE*	AT COLUMBUS, OH.	5:30 P.M.
JAN. 6	WISCONSIN*	DEVANEY CENTER	TBA
JAN. 10	INDIANA*	AT BLOOMINGTON, IND.	5:30 P.M.
JAN. 13	PENN STATE*	AT UNIVERSITY PARK, PA	1 P.M.
JAN. 17	ILLINOIS*	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 P.M.
JAN. 20	MINNESOTA*	AT MINNEAPOLIS	5 P.M.
JAN. 24	MICHIGAN STATE*	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 P.M.
JAN. 31	OHIO STATE*	AT COLUMBUS, OH.	7:30 P.M.
FEB. 3	MINNESOTA*	DEVANEY CENTER	2:05 P.M.
FEB. 7	NORTHWESTERN*	AT EVANSTON, ILL.	7 P.M.
FEB. 11	IOWA*	IOWA CITY, IA.	7:30 P.M.
FEB. 14	OHIO STATE*	DEVANEY CENTER	8 P.M.
FEB. 21	MICHIGAN*	AT ANN ARBOR, MICH.	6 P.M.
FEB. 24	IOWA*	DEVANEY CENTER	2 P.M.
FEB. 26	WISCONSIN*	AT MADISON, WIS.	TBA
MAR. 3	PENN STATE*	DEVANEY CENTER	TBA
BIG TEN TOURNAMENT			
MAR. 7-MAR. 10	TBA	AT HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILL.	TBA
NCAA TOURNAMENT			
MAR. 23-APR 8	TBA		TBA

* BIG TEN MATCH;
ALL TIMES CENTRAL. DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

No. 25 Nebraska falls to Creighton

STORY BY JEFF GRIESCH

Hailie Sample scored a career-high 20 points but No. 25 Nebraska suffered a 66-57 loss to in-state rival Creighton at D.J. Sokol Arena on Wednesday night.

With the loss, the Huskers slipped to 6-3, with all three losses to 2012 NCAA Tournament teams. The defending Missouri Valley Conference champion Bluejays improved to 4-2, notching their first win over a top-25 team in three tries on their homecourt this season. Nebraska's setback snapped a seven-game winning streak in the series with the Jays.

Sample, a 6-1 sophomore forward from Marcus, Texas, hit 9-of-14 shots from the field and both of her free throw attempts to finish with 20 points - doubling her previous career high. She added five rebounds and a pair of assists to go along with one steal.

Senior point guard Lindsey Moore added 15 points on 6-of-11 shooting, including 2-of-3 three-pointers. She added six assists, two rebounds and three steals for the Huskers.

Tear'a Laudermill added eight points off the bench on 3-of-5 shooting, while Meghin Williams pitched in six points on another 3-of-5 effort. While those four Huskers went a combined 21-of-35, the rest of NU's roster went just 3-for-24 on the night. While Moore went 2-of-3 from three-point range, the rest of the Huskers were 0-for-10.

As a team, Nebraska shot 40.7 percent (24-59) from the field and 2-for-13 from three-point range, while going 7-of-8 at the line. NU fell despite outrebounding CU, 33-28, and winning the turnover battle, 14-11.

Freshman Marissa Janning led Creighton by tying her career high with 19 points. Janning hit 4-of-6 three-pointers while connecting on 7-of-10 shots from the field. She added three assists. Junior McKenzie Fujian added a career-best 13 points while hitting 3-of-5 three-pointers and 4-of-6 shots

from the field overall.

Creighton won the game from long range, hitting 9-of-22 shots from beyond the arc to outscore the Huskers by 21 points from three-point range. Overall, CU hit 56.3 percent (27-48) of its shots from the field, but just 3-of-8 free throws.

Creighton shot to a 36-27 halftime lead on its homecourt thanks to 6-of-11 three-point shooting in the first half. Overall, CU hit 62.5 percent (15-24) of its shots in the first half. While the Bluejays were hot, the Huskers were not. NU went just 1-for-6 from long range, while going 12-of-30 overall from the field. Nebraska did outrebound Creighton, 16-12, including 7-1 on the offensive glass, and won the turnover battle 7-6 in the first half.

Nebraska led 19-18 with 6:22 left in the first half after back-to-back buckets by Sample. But CU responded with three consecutive three-pointers to push the lead to 27-21 with 4:12 left. NU cut the margin back to 27-25 after Emily Cady's first two points of the game, but the Jays closed the half on a 9-2 run in the final two minutes.

The Huskers cut CU's lead to three at 43-40 on Moore's second three-pointer with 12:43 left. But Jordan Garrison, who finished with nine points on 4-of-5 shooting, got a layup and was fouled on the following possession. She missed the free throw, but Carli Tritz, who managed six points for the game, got the offensive board and putback to quickly extend CU's lead back to seven points with just over 12 minutes left. NU could not get the lead back to one possession again.

Nebraska's Jordan Hooper was held scoreless for the first time in her career, going 0-for-7 from the field. She and Creighton's Sarah Nelson, nearly shut each other out on the night, as Hooper held Nelson to just four points.

The Huskers return to the Devaney Center for a top-25 showdown with No. 24 Florida State at 2:05 p.m. on Saturday.

Nebraska advances to Omaha Regionals

STORY BY HILARY WINTER | PHOTOS BY JOSH WOLFE

The fourth-seeded Nebraska volleyball team (25-6) closed out the Northern Iowa Panthers in a 3-0 sweep (25-21, 25-16, 25-21) sweep on Friday night at the NU Coliseum to punch its ticket to the Omaha Regional next weekend. Nebraska has now advanced to the Sweet 16 in 29 of their 31 all-time trips to the postseason. The Huskers recorded their fourth sweep in the last five matches in front of 4,184 roaring fans in attendance for Nebraska's final match at the Coliseum.

"This is an amazing place, and there are a lot of great memories here," Nebraska head coach John Cook said. "I told the team they're part of history, and this was one of the most fun matches they'll play in their lives ... the last one in the Coliseum. What a way to send the Coliseum out. I think it was fitting the last point was Lauren (Cook, his daughter) and Gina (Mancuso) for the final kill in the Coliseum. Two Nebraska girls ... how fitting is that? I was contemplating taking a timeout to ask them who wanted to score the last point. But the crowd was going (strong) and it worked out great."

Morgan Broekhuis led the Huskers on the night with 10 kills on 16 swings for a .625 hitting percentage. Gina Mancuso and Hannah Werth each had nine kills, while Hayley Thrasher recorded eight. Meghan Haggerty notched a career-high four aces on the night, while Lara Dykstra led Nebraska defensively with 13 digs.

The Huskers hit .371 as a team, while holding Northern Iowa to a .191 hitting percentage. NU out-blocked UNI 5-4 and held a 41-38 advantage in team digs. Northern Iowa came out on fire in the first set, taking a 7-4 lead over Nebraska. An ace by Haggerty cut their lead to 10-8, but the Panthers then took a 16-14 lead. Nebraska earned its first lead of the night on an error by UNI, taking an 18-17 advantage. A pair of 2-0 runs by Nebraska and a monstrous kill by Werth topped off a long rally

and put the Huskers up 25-21 in the first set and up 1-0 in the match.

Thrasher and Haggerty both had four kills in the first set, while Cook tabbed 15 assists. Nebraska hit .289 in the set, while Northern Iowa hit .128. Both teams totaled two team blocks in the set. The Huskers used the momentum from the end of the first set to take an 8-5 lead in the second set following another ace from Haggerty. Thrasher came on strong for the Huskers, notching two kills and a double-stuff block with Mancuso to make it 11-6, Huskers. Northern Iowa started to make a run, notching three consecutive points as Nebraska was forced to call a timeout. Coming out of the timeout, Broekhuis tallied two kills, helping Nebraska to the 25-16 second-set win.

Broekhuis had four kills in the set, while Mancuso, Thrasher and Werth all had three. Cook notched 13 assists as Nebraska hit .607 in the set and had one team block.

Nebraska came out in the third set and took a 4-1 lead over the Panthers, but UNI came fighting back to take a 9-7 lead. The Huskers would string together a 6-0 run to take a 13-9 advantage, punctuated by a kill from Thrasher as Northern Iowa used its final timeout. A kill by Werth made it 19-15, Nebraska, while the Huskers used a kill from Mancuso to take the third set 25-21 and sweep Northern Iowa.

Mancuso and Werth both had four kills in the final set, while Cook notched 14 assists. Nebraska hit .282 in the set and had two team blocks.

To get to the finals, NU defeated Maryland Eastern Shore (25-14, 25-10, 25-18). NU won its first-round NCAA Tournament match for the 29th consecutive season. The Huskers attacked efficiently throughout the match, especially in sets one and two when Nebraska put down 23 kills on only 41 swings with just two errors. With a .512 hitting percentage through two sets, the Huskers were on pace to set a school record for highest hitting percentage in an NCAA Tournament match (.486) before settling for a .455 mark.

2012 Volleyball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/SCORE
AUG. 18	RED/WHITE MATCH	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
AUG. 24	ST. LOUIS	NU COLISEUM	W 3-0
AUG. 25	UCLA	NU COLISEUM	W 3-2
AUG. 26	NOTRE DAME	OMAHA	W 3-0
SEPT. 1	COLGATE	AT IRVINE, CALIF.	W 3-0
SEPT. 1	UC-IRVINE	AT IRVINE, CALIF.	W 3-0
AMERITAS PLAYERS CHALLENGE			
SEPT. 6	OKLAHOMA	NU COLISEUM	W 3-0
SEPT. 7	DUQUESNE	NU COLISEUM	W 3-0
SEPT. 8	KENTUCKY	NU COLISEUM	W 3-1
SEPT. 15	IOWA STATE	AT AMES, IOWA.	L, 3-1
SEPT. 19	PENN STATE*	AT UNIVERSITY PARK	L, 3-1
SEPT. 22	OHIO STATE*	AT COLUMBUS, OHIO	W, 3-1
SEPT. 26	MICHIGAN STATE*	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SEPT. 30	MICHIGAN*	NU COLISEUM	W 3-1
OCT. 5	PURDUE*	AT WEST LAFAYETTE	W, 3-0
OCT. 6	INDIANA*	AT BLOOMINGTON, IND.	W, 3-2
OCT. 12	WISCONSIN*	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
OCT. 14	MINNESOTA*	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-1
OCT. 17	IOWA*	AT IOWA CITY, IOWA.	W, 3-0
OCT. 21	ILLINOIS*	AT CHAMPAIGN, ILL.	W, 3-0
OCT. 26	OHIO STATE*	NU COLISEUM	L, 3-1
OCT. 28	PENN STATE*	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-2
NOV. 2	MICHIGAN*	AT ANN ARBOR, MICH.	L, 3-2
NOV. 3	MICHIGAN STATE*	AT EAST LANSING, MICH.	L, 3-2
NOV. 9	INDIANA*	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-1
NOV. 10	PURDUE*	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-2
NOV. 16	MINNESOTA*	AT MINNEAPOLIS	L, 3-2
NOV. 18	WISCONSIN*	AT MADISON, WIS.	W, 3-0
NOV. 21	IOWA*	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
NOV. 24	NORTHWESTERN*	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
NCAA TOURNAMENT			
NOV. 28	MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
NOV. 29	NORTHERN IOWA	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
DEC. 7	WASHINGTON	CENTURYLINK CENTER	6 P.M.
DEC. 8	REGIONAL FINAL	CENTURYLINK CENTER	TBA
DEC. 13, 15	FINAL FOUR	AT LOUISVILLE, KY	TBA

* BIG TEN MATCH;

ALL TIMES CENTRAL, DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Lara Dykstra makes a dig against Maryland East Shore in the NCAA Tournament.



Individually, Mancuso had a match-high 12 kills, while Werth added 11. Together, Nebraska's two primary outside hitters combined for 23 kills on only 38 swings, attacking at a .526 clip. Lauren Cook dished out 34 assists while leading the Huskers to their second-best hitting percentage of the season.

Maryland Eastern Shore, which made its second all-time NCAA Tournament appearance and second straight, ended its season with a 28-6 record, setting a school record for wins. Nebraska was sloppy to open the match, committing three early service errors and twice being caught in the net. The errors led to five of Maryland Eastern Shore's first six points, as the Huskers led just 7-6 early in set one. With Nebraska in front 10-9, UMES had its own run of errors, hitting the ball out twice and adding a pair of service errors. The errors helped the Huskers mount a 7-1 run that forced a Hawk timeout with Nebraska on top 17-10. The Huskers cruised from there, ending the set on an 8-2 run following the timeout. Overall, NU won 15 of the final 20 rallies to earn the 25-14 win. Mancuso had four kills in the set, as Nebraska hit .458 while limiting UMES to a .094 attack percentage.

The Huskers carried their momentum over to set two, racing out to a 5-1 lead and forcing an early Maryland Eastern Shore timeout. UMES won the first rally after the

break before a pair of Dykstra aces and more strong serving from Broekhuis contributed to a 9-1 run that gave the Huskers a commanding 14-3 lead. Nebraska led by at least 10 the rest of the way, using a 6-1 run to take a 21-7 lead. Three straight Hawk points trimmed the lead to 11 before a solo block by Allison McNeal sealed the 25-10 win. McNeal helped spark the strong finish with two blocks and a pair of kills off the bench. The Huskers hit .588 in the set, terminating 11 kills on only 17 swings, with just one error.

After totaling only two attack errors through the first two sets combined, Nebraska hit into the net on two of its first seven swings in set three. The errors didn't prohibit the Huskers from jumping out to another quick lead though, as Nebraska led 9-4. A pair of service errors and two more attack errors helped fuel a 6-1 Hawk run that tied the set at 10 and forced a Husker timeout. Maryland Eastern Shore had back-to-back serves to take its first lead of the match, but the Huskers earned a side out each time. The Huskers then strung together a 9-1 run through a pair of UMES timeouts to take a commanding 20-13 advantage. The Hawks stayed with seven points the rest of the way, but Nebraska was too much, closing out the match on a Mancuso kill. The Huskers hit .417 in set three despite the errors, finishing with a match-high 14 kills in the set.



Lauren Cook sets the ball against Maryland East Shore in the NCAA Tournament.

NU suffers 64-42 loss to Creighton

STORY BY SHAMUS MCKNIGHT | PHOTOS BY JOSH WOLFE & DARREN IVY

Nebraska's cold-shooting night proved costly, as the Huskers dropped a 64-42 decision to No. 16 Creighton Thursday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

A sellout crowd of 13,368 – the Huskers' first non-conference sellout since 2006 – saw the Huskers held to a season-low 32.1 percent from the floor, including 25 percent in the first half, as the Bluejays (8-1) jumped out to a 28-17 halftime lead and were in control for much of the night.

All-American Doug McDermott led all scorers with 27 points for the Bluejays, while Gregory Echenique had 12 points and 12 rebounds for Creighton, which snapped the Huskers' two-game win streak and picked up its first win in Lincoln since 2004.

Seniors Dylan Talley and Brandon Ubel led the Huskers (6-2) with 14 and 10 points respectively, while Ubel grabbed eight boards in a losing effort.

Nebraska held Creighton to a season-low 64 points, nearly 20 points below its season average, but NU missed 13 of its first 18 shots and never got untracked offensively.

"I thought Creighton did a really good job," NU head coach Tim Miles said. "I thought that they didn't give us angles to attack the basket. We couldn't get fouled and we couldn't get a rhythm. They did a nice job taking Ray (Gallegos) out of action, and I regret – later in the second half, I regretted not running one more thing. I thought we had some rhythm early in the second half, but I don't like to just isolate guys and go to them and then everyone else gets to standing around. You just kind of walk that fine line for, 'Can I get him an open shot and still get everybody going?' We couldn't. I thought the only time we had any offensive rhythm was early in the second half when we were just trading baskets."

The matchup between the two rivals was a defensive battle for most of the half, as both offenses were held in

check for the first 20 minutes and neither team shot better than 40 percent from the field. Nebraska was within 14-12 with 6:39 left following a Gallegos basket, but the Bluejays ran off seven straight points as part of a 10-2 spurt to build a 24-14 advantage.

"A lot of stuff that they got was off our turnovers or bad shots where we were out of position for rebounding and getting back," NU senior Brandon Ubel said. "We just didn't get matched up in transition and they hit a wide-open shot. That happened way too many times. That's definitely something that we need to fix – not letting them play offense off of our offense. That's probably one of the biggest things we need to correct."

In the second half, Nebraska got baskets on its first two possessions to pull within 32-21 and was within 40-28 after a Shavon Shields' 3-pointer with 15:08 left, but Creighton quickly responded. The Bluejays, who hit 5-of-7 from 3-point range in the second half, got 3-pointers from McDermott and Austin Chatman to push the lead back to 18 points and Nebraska was never able to cut into the CU advantage.

"We just came out with a little more confidence," McDermott said of the Bluejays in the second half. "We were a little shaky at first. It was our first real test on the road against a packed house. We got those jitters out at halftime and we moved the ball a lot better and executed our game plan. We did a good job of regrouping there in the locker room and came off right."

Creighton collected its first win in Lincoln since 2004, as the Huskers had won the last three matchups prior to this year.

The Huskers' 42 points and 32.1 percent shooting were both seasons lows.

Nebraska completed its 2013 recruiting class with the signing of 6-foot-3 guard Tai Webster, a four-star recruit by ESPN, who is a member of the New Zealand National Team. He joins Nick Fuller and Nathan Hawkins as signees.

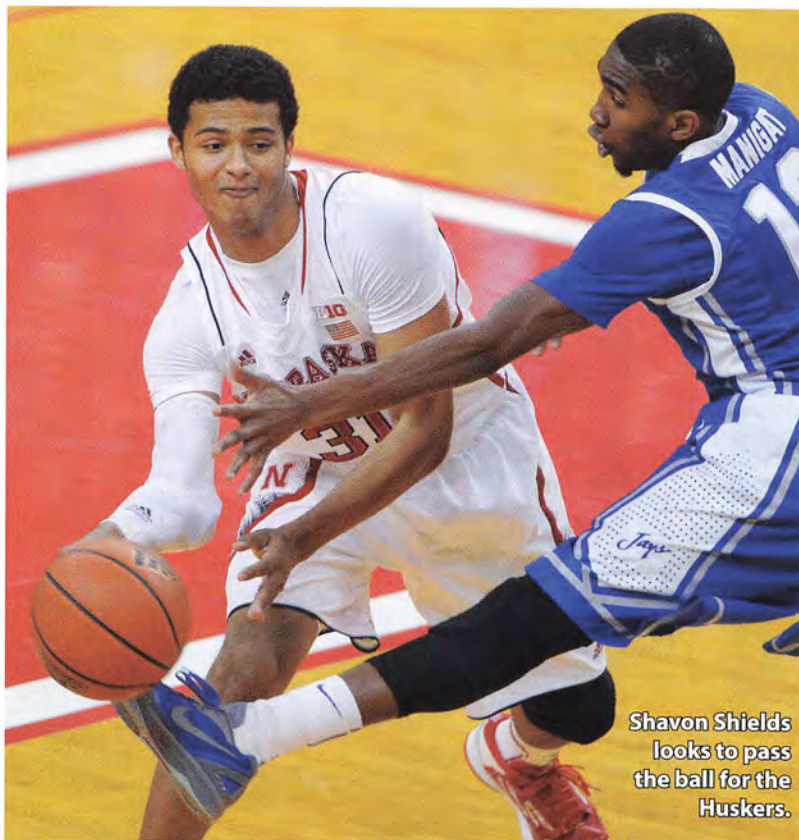
Men's Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/SCORE
NOV. 7	MIDLAND (EXHIB.)	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 68-40
NOV. 11	SOUTHERN	DEVANEY CENTER	W 66-55
<i>JOE CIPRIANO NEBRASKA CLASSIC</i>			
NOV. 15	VALPARAISO	DEVANEY CENTER	W 50-48
NOV. 18	NEBRASKA-OMAHA	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 75-62
NOV. 21	TULANE	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 61-57
NOV. 24	KENT STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	L, 74-60
<i>ACC/BIG TEN CHALLENGE</i>			
NOV. 27	WAKE FOREST	AT WINSTON-SALEM, NC	W, 79-63
DEC. 3	USC	DEVANEY CENTER	W, 63-51
DEC. 6	CREIGHTON	DEVANEY CENTER	L, 64-42
DEC. 15	OREGON	AT EUGENE, ORE.	3:30 P.M.
DEC. 18	JACKSONVILLE STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	8 P.M.
<i>SUN BOWL INVITATIONAL</i>			
DEC. 22	CENTRAL MICHIGAN	AT EL PASO, TEX.	6 P.M.
DEC. 23	UTEP/ARK. PINE BLUE	AT EL PASO, TEX.	TBA
DEC. 29	NICHOLLS STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	2 P.M.
JAN. 2	OHIO STATE*	AT COLUMBUS, OH.	5:30 P.M.
JAN. 6	WISCONSIN*	DEVANEY CENTER	TBA
JAN. 9	MICHIGAN*	AT ANN ARBOR, MICH.	6 P.M.
JAN. 13	MICHIGAN STATE*	AT EAST LANSING, MICH.	TBA
JAN. 16	PURDUE*	DEVANEY CENTER	8 P.M.
JAN. 19	PENN STATE*	AT UNIVERSITY PARK, PA	12 P.M.
JAN. 22	ILLINOIS*	DEVANEY CENTER	7:30 P.M.
JAN. 26	NORTHWESTERN*	DEVANEY CENTER	2 P.M.
JAN. 29	MINNESOTA*	AT MINNEAPOLIS	8 P.M.
FEB. 2	OHIO STATE*	DEVANEY CENTER	6 P.M.
FEB. 9	PENN STATE*	DEVANEY CENTER	8 P.M.
FEB. 13	INDIANA*	AT BLOOMINGTON, IND.	6 P.M.
FEB. 16	MICHIGAN STATE*	DEVANEY CENTER	7 P.M.
FEB. 21	IOWA*	DEVANEY CENTER	8 P.M.
FEB. 26	WISCONSIN*	AT MADISON, WIS.	8 P.M.
MAR. 2	ILLINOIS*	AT CHAMPAIGN, ILL.	TBA
MAR. 6	MINNESOTA*	DEVANEY CENTER	8 P.M.
MAR. 9	IOWA*	IOWA CITY, IA.	1:15 P.M.
<i>BIG TEN TOURNAMENT</i>			
MAR. 14-MAR. 17	TBA	AT CHICAGO, ILL.	TBA
<i>NCAA TOURNAMENT</i>			
MAR. 19-APR 8	TBA		TBA

* BIG TEN MATCH;
ALL TIMES CENTRAL. DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Dylan Talley (24) goes up for a shot against Creighton.

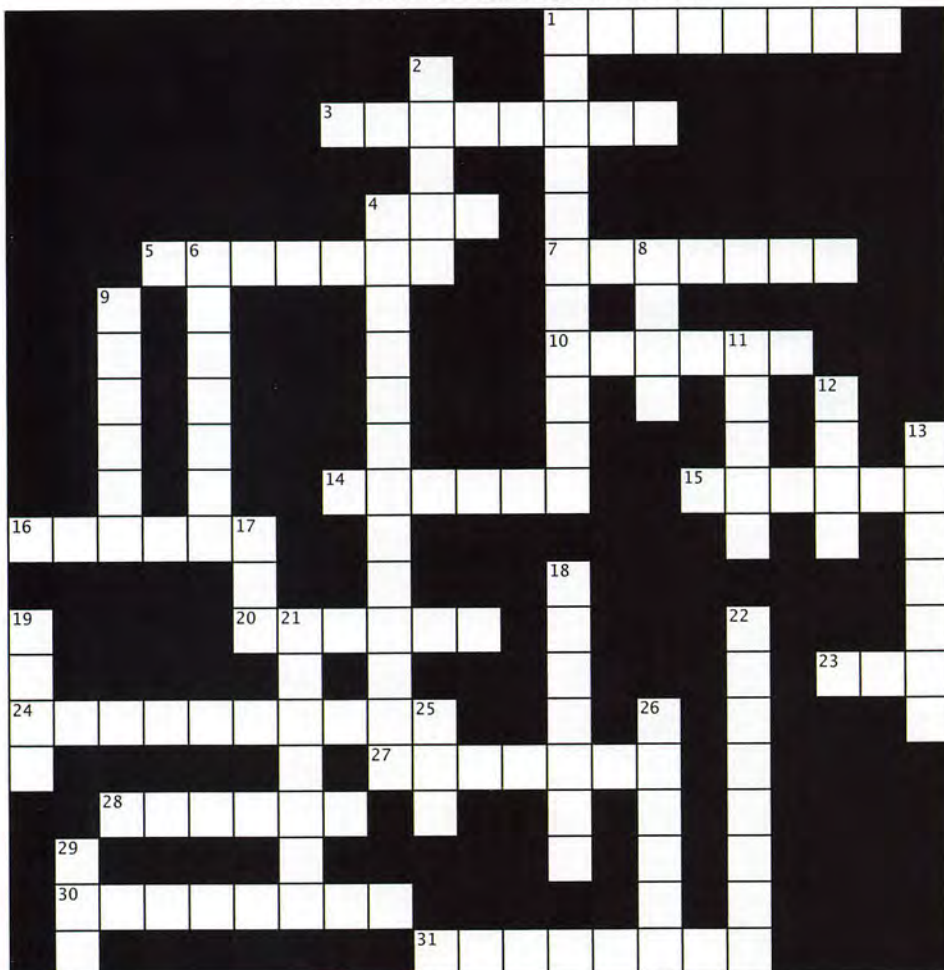


Shavon Shields looks to pass the ball for the Huskers.



Andre Almeida slams the ball over Creighton's Gregory Echenique.

JAN. 1 CROSSWORD PUZZLE



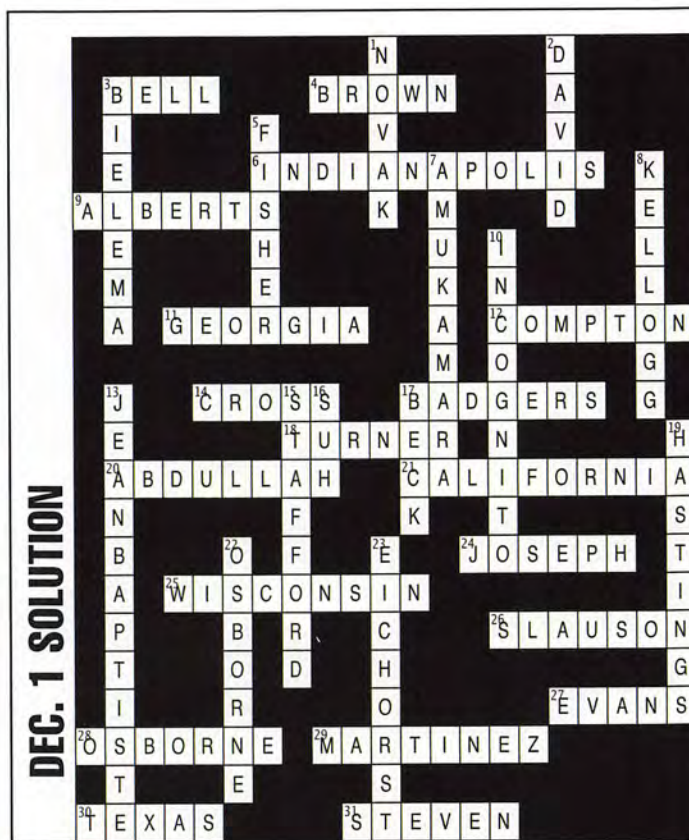
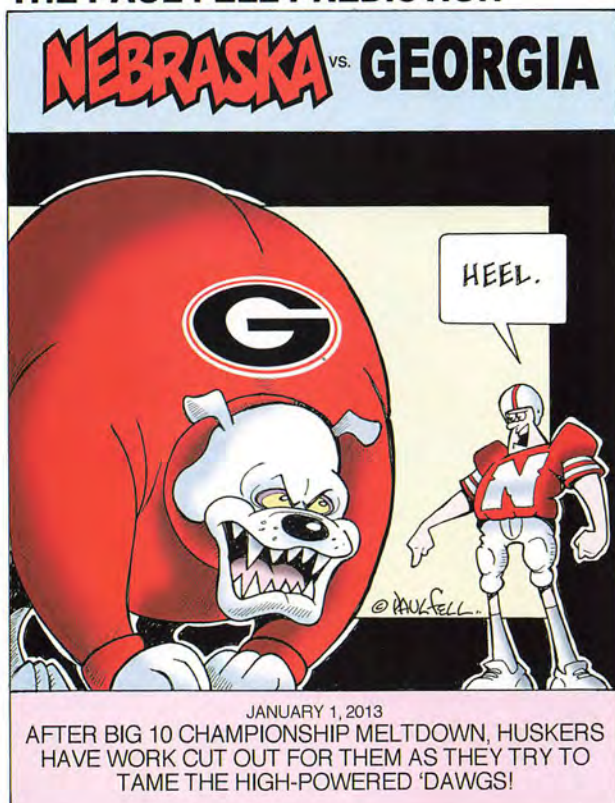
Across

1. 2012 interceptions leader
3. Leading rusher vs. Iowa
4. Georgia's conference
5. 2012 tackles leader
7. Wears No. 12 (offense)
10. Ex-Husker kicker now with Philadelphia Eagles
14. Georgia Heisman Trophy winner (1982)
15. Leading tackler vs. Iowa
16. Wide receivers coach
20. Won 201 games as Georgia's head coach
23. Previous bowl game between NU and Georgia
24. NU's bowl game after 2011 season
27. Defeated Georgia in SEC Championship game
28. Starting center vs. Wisconsin
30. Georgia nickname
31. First-team All-Big Ten quarterback

Down

1. 1983 Outland Trophy winner
2. Had 8 solo tackles vs. Wisconsin
4. First team to defeat Georgia in 2012
6. Wears No. 12 (defense)
8. First-team All-Big Ten offensive lineman
9. Georgia campus location
11. Georgia coach
12. 2012 receiving leader
13. Opponent in 2013 opener
17. Georgia school color
18. Georgia's bowl game after 2011 season
19. Ex-Husker punter now with Baltimore Ravens
21. City for Capital One Bowl
22. Leading rusher vs. Wisconsin
25. Recruiting coordinator
26. 2012 sacks leader
29. Network for Capital One Bowl

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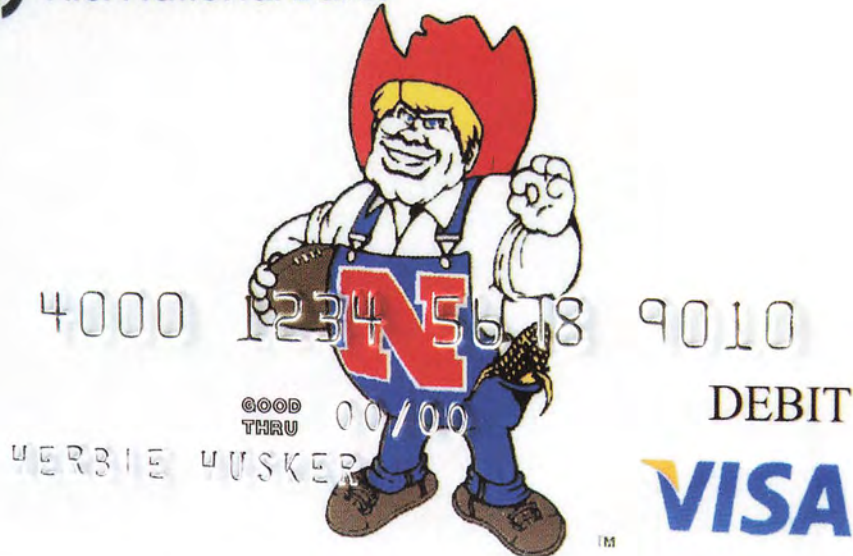
LINCOLN
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OMAHA
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2012 GAMES

09/01	SOUTHERN MISS	W, 49-20
09/08	@ UCLA	L, 36-30
09/15	ARKANSAS ST.	W, 42-13
09/22	IDAHO STATE	W, 73-7
09/29	WISCONSIN	W, 30-27
10/06	@ OHIO STATE	L, 63-38
10/20	@ NORTHWESTERN	W, 29-28
10/27	MICHIGAN	W, 23-9
11/03	@ MICH. STATE	W, 28-24
11/10	PENN STATE	W, 32-23
11/17	MINNESOTA	W, 38-14
11/23	@ IOWA	W, 13-7
12/01	BIG TEN CHAMP.	L, 70-31
01/01	Georgia in Capital One Bowl	Noon

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